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THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 548.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1838.

PRICE
FOURPENCE
(Stamped Edition, 5d.)

For the convenience of Subscribers in remote places, the weekly numbers are reissued in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazines.—Subscriptions for the Stamped Edition for the Continent, for not less than 3 Months, and in advance, are received by M. BAUDRY, 9, Rue du Coq-St.-Honore, Paris, or at the Athenæum Office, London. For France, and other Countries not requiring postage to be paid in London, 2s fr. or 1s. 2d. the year. To other countries, the postage in addition.

[JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COUNTER.]

REVIEWS

Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Postage. Printed by Order of the House of Commons.

As announced last week, our publication is this day printed on the kind of paper, with coloured threads inserted in the body of the sheet, recommended to be used for Post Office covers, in order to assist in preventing the forgery of them. Mr. Dickinson states that he has not had time to get his machinery into complete order for the manufacture of this specimen, so that the threads are less perfectly covered on one side than on the other; and the only thread he was able to procure was unequal in substance and in colour; but that these and other difficulties can be guarded against in the regular course of the manufacture. In his evidence (page 154) he recommends it "for stamps and other government purposes, on the ground of its entire novelty and peculiarity, the difficulty of its manufacture, and of counterfeiting it, and its admitting of an easy and definite description: it is an article not required for any general purpose or manufacture; and the production of its fabrication, or of its being in possession of any person, unless with permission of government, would be no hardship or inconvenience to the public. The possibility of diversifying the colour, arrangement, and material of the threads, renders it capable of endless variety, and suited for numerous important objects, if adopted as a government paper." The Chairman of the Board of Stamps states (page 141), "that it is the best preventive of forgery he has seen." We agree with him, and shall be surprised if so simple a means of protecting the revenue and preventing crime is not adopted. Col. Maberly says (page 223), "I have always stated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when asked upon this subject of forgery, that he must not trust to the Post Office for detecting it at all, inasmuch as the rapidity of our operations would prevent us adopting any precautions against it," which is a strong ground for facilitating detection by other means.

The present Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry is not the first committee which has investigated the plans of Mr. Hill for Post Office Reform. A commission was issued some time since to Lord Duncannon, Lord Seymour, and Mr. Labouchere, to inquire generally into the management of the Post Office; and they have published ten Reports. In the ninth, relating to the Twopenny Post, which, by their arrangement, took precedence of the General Post, they examined Mr. Hill and others on the subject of his plan, and were so satisfied of its applicability to that branch of the post, that they recommended its adoption in the following terms:—"We therefore propose to your lordships, that the distinction in the rates and districts which now applies to letters delivered by the Twopenny and Threepenny Post, shall not in any way affect correspondence transmitted under stamped covers; and that any letter not exceeding an ounce in weight, shall be conveyed free within the metropolis, and the districts to which the town and country deliveries now extend, if enclosed in an envelope bearing a penny stamp." And in the House of Lords, on the 30th May last, Lord Duncannon said, "My Right Hon. friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pro-

poses to reduce, to a certain extent, the charge on the transmission of letters; and though it is considered inexpedient to deprive persons of the opportunity of sending unpaid letters by the Twopenny Post, they will shortly be enabled to purchase envelopes which will carry them for one penny each." This, from a cabinet minister, left the public in quiet anticipation of a beneficial change, which, however, has not yet taken place. The influences which have caused this public disappointment, are evident enough in the official evidence before us.

For the probable effects of the change so wisely recommended by the Commissioners, we refer to the evidence of Mr. Parker:—

"Does your house issue circulars?—We do not now issue circulars by post, because of the expense of postage, but if we had a very small postage it would be the most beneficial means of doing business which could be devised; and knowing what has been proposed with regard to stamped covers, or franks, I have taken the liberty of putting together a catalogue to show the way in which communications might be made with the smallest possible trouble (*producing a printed copy of a proposed new frank or cover, containing a catalogue printed on the inside, and addressed, in print, on the back, to himself in London*). If we had franks of that kind we should print in them a list of the things in which we mostly deal; and our correspondents, by putting a few lines upon them, would convert them into an order; it would be well worth the while of any person in business, like myself, to supply our correspondents with those franks, and having the name printed upon them, they could not go to any other person; and I have no doubt this mode would be adopted to an extent that it would appear almost romancing to describe; but I am satisfied that many would avail themselves of it, not only for dealers with whom they are in communication, but for large consumers also. If the Committee will look at it, they will see the mode in which communications may be made; there is a list of between 200 and 300 books in which I deal; I have got my clerks to write on the margins such letters as I am sure the country dealers would send back upon the receipt of such a list. Here is the same thing in sheet, to show the great facility they will afford for simplifying correspondence. I presume that the covers will be sent in sheets like that (*producing a specimen containing four envelopes*); these are produced for the purpose of showing what may be introduced in that single sheet of paper; there are nearly 300 separate titles in one envelope or frank; that is applicable to the retail trade as well as the wholesale. I am not a bookseller; I only sell the books I publish. To me, this mode is of the greatest possible importance; I have endeavoured to apply this to our every-day transactions in business. I am quite sure this is a sort of correspondence we should have day by day, as soon as any plan of cheap postage could be brought into operation.

"You are of opinion that a very large addition of correspondence would take place?—There is no question of that; the reduction of postage to 1d. or 2d. which has been talked of, opens up the idea of such an extensive correspondence that I really hesitate to say the extent to which I think it might be carried; but I estimate that our receipt of letters alone would be six or eight times what they are, and that the number of letters we should decline enclosing would amount to three to one of all we now receive; but I cannot estimate the number of communications in the way of circulars and advertisements we should send in the course of a year; I do not think I overstate it when I say they would be 20,000 or 30,000 in the year, where we do not now send one; all advertisements are expensive; and when we knew persons likely to purchase the books I publish, and could

apply directly to them, there would be no limit to the number I should send in the course of a year; I print yearly about 200,000 such bills as this (*producing one*); and when they are printed, there is sometimes a difficulty in getting them properly circulated, so as to repay the expense; we insert them in the reviews and magazines, and we send 300 to one correspondent to issue in his connexion and 200 to another, and leave it to them to dispose of them in their own way; but a great many of them are wasted. **

"You have shown the mode you propose of using envelopes; have you looked at the proposal of having stamped covers, indicating the payment of postage, and have you considered what effect that would have? —That would be the same as a frank, if it went for the same postage; it would be very simple, but it would, of course, be forged enormously. **

"This very mode of franking by envelopes would make an addition to the penny-post in London to an extent which can hardly be described; I am sure that shopkeepers of every description would furnish families with numbers of those franked covers with their own addresses printed on them; and I reason upon the enormous expense to which persons who know the advantage of advertising go. There are certain houses who now think it beneath them to advertise, but I am quite sure that even those would avail themselves of a list like this, if it might be sent to them by a penny-post. The increase in the penny-post of London would be very enormous. I speak thus strongly on the circulation of large numbers of printed lists, seeing I have been all my life a printer, and know the feelings of persons who would circulate those things, if they could calculate on their getting into the hands of those to whom they are addressed."

Now, supposing that out of the 30,000 individuals or companies carrying on trade in London, one sixth,—that is to say, 5000, adopted the plan proposed by Mr. Parker, and also availed themselves of Post Office covers for the issue of circulars, and that in these two modes they distributed 5000 per annum each on the average, which appears to us a reasonable computation, that alone would make 25 millions of letters; and supposing the present amount of correspondence by Twopenny and Threepenny post to be only doubled by the reduction of postage to 1d. throughout the whole district, combined with the advantage of Post Office covers for cards, invitations, and other communications, where payment of postage cannot at present be adopted, and parties are, consequently, obliged to employ messengers, such increase would raise the 12 millions of letters, which it is at present, to 24 millions, making the aggregate 49 millions, which would yield 204,000/- gross revenue per annum; and after deducting 17,000/- for the expense of the covers, 187,000/- while at the present high rate of charge, the produce is only 120,801/- (p. 512). It has been shown by the evidence of letter-carriers, that, when relieved from the collection of postage, they could deliver five times the present number of letters, without the expenditure of additional time or labour. We are satisfied that Lord Duncannon, Lord Seymour, and Mr. Labouchere, traced out the various sources of increase, which would render the important public boon they proposed a perfectly safe proceeding as regarded the Treasury. We find, however, from Col. Maberly's evidence (page 214), that he took a different view of the matter from the Commissioners, and that he calls their plan "a most preposterous way of trying the experiment of stamped covers, because, if the party had used the stamped cover, he would have circulated his letter for 1d.; if he had used

the other mode, he would have paid in some instances 2d., and in others 3d.; that is a taxation of 100 or 200 per cent. over that which he would have paid if he had used stamped covers. The inevitable consequence of that would have been to have driven the public, *from a sense of interest*, into the plan of stamped covers; and a sense of interest so strong, that I do not think in any case scarcely it would have been neglected." We must suppose that Colonel Maberly's view prevailed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and induced him, instead of acting on the suggestion of the Treasury Commission, to bring a bill into Parliament in the early part of this session to authorize the use of stamped covers, without reducing the rate of postage, adopting thereby Col. Maberly's principle of experiment, instead of that recommended by the Commissioners. It appears to us that the plan of the gallant Colonel, as compared with that of the Commissioners, is something like starting an omnibus to carry passengers from the Bank to Paddington at the rate of 4s. 6d. each, because that is the fare of a hackney-coach, instead of "driving the public, *by a sense of interest*," to ride that distance for 6d. And we presume, that had hackney-coaches been a royal monopoly, and Colonel Maberly hackney-coach-master general, the finance minister and the whole cabinet would never have persuaded him to allow such innovations as cabs or omnibuses, except on condition of their rate of charge being the same as that of the old hacks,—and, probably, their rate of travelling. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's bill, however, was sunk "ten thousand fathom deep," by a petition from the Chamber of Commerce, Edinburgh, and now slumbers for ever in that Limbo of vanity,—

Where entity and quidity,
The ghosts of defunct bodies lie.

We agree with Lord Litchfield, that the General Post should be considered separately from the Twopenny and Threepenny Post of the London district, and from the country Penny Posts; but we do not think there is any fair return or just calculation made of the number of general post letters. Lord Litchfield estimates them at forty-eight millions; but at page 434, there is an official estimate of them at 43,740,350, and a return (page 462) of the letters posted for a week, commencing on the 15th of January last, which, taking that week as an average for the year, would make the annual number 48,945,624; but we do not consider that period, when the roads were blocked by snow, and the canals frozen, can be taken as a fair average of all the weeks in the year. In order to have rendered it a fair standard of computation, there should have accompanied it a return of the money received for postage during the same week, and if that had turned out to be a fifty-second part of the annual gross receipt for general post letters, it would have been a good ground for believing that the letters posted in that week formed also a fifty-second part of the annual number. The only return from whence the average rate of payment on general post letters can as yet be fairly computed, is No. 13, viz. "An account of the number of letters delivered from the Birmingham Post-office, and the amount of postage charged on the same, for the week ending 29th Oct. 1837," from which we deduce an average of 9d. per letter.

That the present excessive charges defeat the object for which they were imposed, we have almost as ample evidence from the Post-office authorities as from the witnesses who have come forward on the part of the public. Col. Maberly says—"I do think the rates of postage too high, and so, I believe, every Postmaster General has thought them for many years;" and, in reply to a question from Lord Seymour, "When you say

too high, do you mean too high for the general interest of the public, or too high for the interests of the revenue?"—I should say too high for both; my opinion is, that a reduction of postage, in the process of time, would be advantageous to the revenue and also to the public, but it would be a question of time." Neither the Postmaster General, Col. Maberly, nor any subordinate functionary, would offer any opinion as to the degree in which reduction of postage would increase the number of letters sent by post, though they do admit that advantages would attend uniformity of charge. Col. Maberly thinks the smuggler would beat the Post Office even if the postage of letters were 1d., because 1000 letters can be sent by coach parcel for 7s. or 8s., when the Post Office charge for them would be four guineas (p. 198); but it seems not to have occurred to the gallant Colonel, that though the coach proprietor might *convey* them as a single parcel for 7s. or less, he could not *deliver* them as separate letters for, probably, four guineas. Mr. Lawrence, Assistant Secretary, admits that postage might be reduced one half, without any material loss to the revenue; but nothing can be more manifest than that every Post Office witness speaks with reluctance and hesitation on this subject, and most of them were manifestly uninformed as to the clandestine conveyance of letters, of which the Committee had had such abundant evidence. We have no doubt that the Committee, in making up their minds as to the extent of the reduction—as to the extent to which they may *drive the public by a sense of their own interest* (the only mode of driving the public that we would sanction), will not lose sight of a remark of Mr. Hill's, that "a charge of two-pence per letter, or even three halfpence, would probably exclude the great mass of printed correspondence, and it would diminish the correspondence of all kinds; it would also tend to maintain, as between large towns, the contraband conveyance of Letters, and thus the Post Office would, to a considerable extent, as at present, have to distribute the least profitable part of the correspondence only."

The suggestion of Mr. Hill, that the public would expend nearly as much money in postage at a low rate as they are now obliged to pay at a high rate, is supported by a great many witnesses of very competent authority, and we call public attention to the following account of the increase of ship letters in the last five years, under a moderate rate of charge, viz. (p. 471)

	Liverpool.	Hull.
In the year ending 5th Jan. 1834....	15,318	15,797
Ditto	1835.....	21,528
	1836.....	20,893
Ditto	1837.....	46,577
Ditto	1838.....	63,111
		47,547

while, owing to the repressive effect of the exorbitant charges on the General Post correspondence, there has been scarcely any increase in inland correspondence.

Mr. Huddlestoke, superintendent of the Ship Letter Office, who produced the above account, is asked (p. 38), "Seeing the immense increase of ship letters, have you any doubt at all that the internal correspondence of the country, passing by one means or another, must have increased in the same proportion?"—I think it is fair to presume that it has—I have not given my mind to the consideration; but I conceive it is fair to draw that inference from the facts I have stated."

We have felt ourselves justified in expressing an opinion of the injustice of not carrying into effect the recommendation of the Treasury Commission of Inquiry to reduce the Twopenny and Threepenny Post, particularly after the intention had been announced by a cabinet minister in his place in parliament, that being a matter

perfectly distinct from the present inquiry of the Committee of the House; but we do not think it would be decorous to anticipate the decision of the latter on Mr. Hill's plan generally, particularly as the inquiry is still in progress.

Previous to the Easter recess the Committee had examined forty-four witnesses, including the officers of the Post and Stamp departments, and most of the principal branches of inquiry have been extensively investigated: we think that the statistical facts disclosed will be considered very remarkable, and trust that the result will be beneficial to the most important interests of society, and aid the science of taxation, by additional proof that an exorbitant impost is less productive to the revenue than such a moderate tax as neither checks consumption nor occasions smuggling.

The Life of William Wilberforce. By His Son, R. I. Wilberforce, M.A., and S. Wilberforce, M.A. 5 vols. 8vo. Murray.

A Life of William Wilberforce was sure to be welcomed and perused with affectionate respect by that large and important body of religionists of whom he was, for so many years, the acknowledged head and representative; and his biographers might, therefore, have been excused, had they prepared this work with some special reference to a class. But we cannot but think that they have been a trifle too exclusive. From his cradle to his grave—from the days when Pitt (the then companion of his freaks, no less than of his aspiring thoughts,) was found rising betimes at Wimbledon, to sow a flower-bed with the fragments of a friend's Opera Hat, to those of his old age, which the cheerful philanthropist beguiled with readings of the *Waverley Novels*—Mr. Wilberforce never entirely withdrew himself from the world, though he might not live for, or in the spirit of, the worldly. He seemed, indeed, to have regarded himself as a sort of lay missionary, empowered to advocate religion and good morals among the gay and the great—(at to use a stage phrase) for that most difficult of all parts, a conciliator between the thoughtful and thoughtless; and this in right of his social powers, and his position as a man of independent fortune. Knowing, then, such to have been the case, and being aware that the present work was largely based upon diaries punctually kept throughout the whole of his busy life,—reminiscences dictated by him to the companions of his serene old age, and correspondences between himself and some of the most distinguished personages of his time;—we were prepared to expect copious additions to the anecdotal history of the last half century—conscientious portraits of those with whom he had conversed on such intimate and honourable terms—and interesting details of the great measures to which his life was devoted. The feast turns out to be much less tempting than we had anticipated. The constant and ceaseless hurry in which Mr. Wilberforce's life was spent,—or, it may be, conscientious scruples,—prevented his journalizing to any great extent, or observing with very close minuteness; while, again, his executors, feeling to the full the difficulty and the delicacy which attach themselves to the labours of a biographer,—or, like their father, perhaps, restrained by peculiar opinions, may have suppressed many things which we would have thankfully seen discussed and described, if only for the purpose of benefiting by the testimony of one at once pious and enlightened, strict and charitable.

Our course with this book will lead us to offer notes upon its contents, in proportion as they appear generally interesting, rather than to review, in the mass, the great measures with which Mr. Wilberforce's life and thoughts were

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so intimately bound up. Neither shall we, on the present occasion, examine or advert to the bearings of his political career.

William Wilberforce was born at Hull on the 24th of August 1759, the only son of an opulent merchant, of good family. His earliest years were as much marked by feebleness of health as sweetness of disposition and liveliness of temperament. When yet a child, he was domesticated, for some time, with an aunt, who "was a great admirer of Whitefield's, and kept up a friendly connexion with the early Methodists." In the household of this relation he imbibed the extreme opinions of these sectarians, to the alarm of his mother, who withdrew him thence when he was twelve or thirteen; and, it may be inferred, from the words of his biographers, (who dwell with emphasis on "force employed to induce him to witness his first play,") took pains, by the counter-influence of gay society, to eradicate from his mind what were thought to be gloomy, if not perilous, opinions. It is somewhat curious, and will afford food for thought to the student of character, to find him referring, in his latter and decidedly serious days, to the conduct of his parent as one of the mercies of his lot, whereby he was permitted to attain to a position of worldly usefulness.—

"I think I have never before remarked," he says, "that my mother's taking me from my uncle's when about twelve or thirteen, and then completely a Methodist, has probably been the means of my being connected with political men and becoming useful in life. If I had staid with my uncle I should probably have been a bigoted despised Methodist; yet to come to what I am, through so many years of folly as those which elapsed between my last year at school and 1785, is wonderful."

There is, to our apprehension, a no less singular passage in an after-portion of his dictated memoranda:—

"That gracious Providence which all my life long has directed my course with mercy and goodness, and which in so many instances known only to myself has called forth my wonder and gratitude, was signally manifested in the first formation of my parliamentary connexion with the county of York, and in its uninterrupted and long continuance. Had the change in my religious principles taken place a year sooner, humanly speaking I never could have become member for Yorkshire. The means I took, and the exertions I made, in pursuing that object, were such as I could not have used after my religious change; I should not have thought it right to carve for myself so freely, if I may use the phrase, (to shape my course for myself so confidently,) nor should I have adopted the methods by which I ingratiated myself in the good-will of some of my chief supporters; neither after my having adopted the principles I now hold, could I have conformed to the practices by which alone any man would be elected for any of the places in which I had any natural influence or connexion."

The education of Mr. Wilberforce was begun at Hull. While studying there under the care of the Rev. K. Basket, we are told that, when only fourteen, he wrote to the editor of a York paper, a letter condemnatory of "the odious traffic in human flesh." We hear, too, of his quickness in composition; of his delight in committing English poetry to memory—a delight which never forsook him, if we are to judge from his correspondence; for this, even when on grave subjects, will be found constantly seasoned by literary allusions—in particular by references to Shakespeare. When he was seventeen he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, "a fair scholar." Little is narrated of his college life, save the fact, that while it was gay, it never became debauched. On quitting the University, he detached himself from the mercantile house founded by his grandfather; and, being ambitious to enter parliament, canvassed the borough of Hull, and was ultimately

returned as its member, at the cost of between eight and nine thousand pounds; for those were days, when, "by long-established custom, the single vote of a resident elector was rewarded with a donation of two guineas, four were paid for a plumper, and the expenses of a freeman's journey from London averaged 10*l.* a piece. The letter of the law was not broken, because the money was not paid until the last day on which election petitions could be presented."

On his coming up to London, Mr. Wilberforce gaily launched himself in society—became a member of half-a-dozen clubs—laid the foundation of a lasting and affectionate friendship with Pitt—and escaped the snares laid for his fortune at Brooke's faro-table. Soon, indeed, he bade a final adieu to gambling in every shape:—

"He was weaned from it in a most characteristic manner. 'We can have no play to-night,' complained some of the party at the club, 'for Saint Andrew is not here to keep bank.' 'Wilberforce,' said Mr. Banks, (who never joined himself,) 'if you will keep it I will give you a guinea.' The playful challenge was accepted, but as the game grew deep, he rose the winner of 600*l.* Much of this was lost by those who were only heirs to future fortunes, and could not therefore meet such a call without inconvenience. The pain he felt at their annoyance cured him of a taste which seemed but too likely to become predominant."

Good might well have been reasonably augured from such a manifestation of considerateness and strength of principle; but Mr. Wilberforce also gave promise of his future energy by his constant attention to his parliamentary duties, being esteemed, we are told, "a more active member of parliament than any of his predecessors: perhaps the memory of Andrew Marvel had faded from their common birthplace. From the first he was an independent man."

"In January, 1781, he was joined by Mr. Pitt, who having contested Cambridge University without success at the general election, now took his seat for the borough of Appleby. Community of objects naturally increased their friendship; yet not even to friendship with Pitt would he sacrifice his independence. 'I well remember,' he said long afterwards, 'the pain I felt in being obliged to vote against Pitt, the second time he spoke in parliament.'"

There are but few anecdotes concerning his London winters, or his holidays at Wimbledon, or Rayrigg, Westmorland, (where for seven years he rented a house,) to be found in his diaries of this period,—where important events and bright hours are chronicled by a sentence. One trait, however, as characteristic of Pitt's remarkable energy, must not escape us:—

"Pitt's famous speech on second day's debate—first day's not so good. Spoke three hours, till four in the morning. Stomach disordered, and actually holding Solomon's porch door open with one hand, while vomiting during Fox's speech, to whom he was

The Prince of Wales, then the focus of all convivial brilliancy, was charmed with Mr. Wilberforce's singing at Devonshire House. Besides the fascinating gift of a sweet voice, the young member also possessed great powers of mimicry—a yet more certain passport to lively society. But tendencies are even here discernible, of his rapidly increasing wish to disengage himself from a life which, however brilliant, palled from its profitlessness.

In the autumn of 1783, Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Eliot, set forth on a continental journey. Here again we have to regret that the memoranda are so brief; but though few, they are interesting. The three friends met at Canterbury; thence they resolved to proceed direct to Rheims, to gain some knowledge of the language, before they proceeded to Paris. Each, it appeared, had trusted to the others to obtain letters of introduction; and when the omission was discovered, there was no better resource

than to obtain from Mr. Peter Thellusson an introduction to the correspondent of his house. Their first adventures are thus told in a letter to Mr. Banks:—

"From Calais we made directly for Rheims, and the day after our arrival dressed ourselves unusually well, and proceeded to the house of a Mons. Coustier to present, with not a little awe, our only letters of recommendation. It was with some surprise that we found Mons. Coustier behind a counter distributing figs and raisins. I had heard that it was very usual for gentlemen on the continent to practise some handicraft trade or other for their amusement, and therefore for my own part I concluded that his taste was in the fig way, and that he was only playing at grocer for his diversion; and viewing the matter in this light, I could not help admiring the excellence of his imitation; but we soon found that Mons. Coustier was a 'véritable épicier,' and that not a very eminent one. He was very fair and candid, however, and acknowledged to us that he was not acquainted with any of the gentry of the place, and therefore could not introduce us to them. We returned to our inn, and after spending nine or ten days without making any great progress in the French language, which could not indeed be expected from us, as we spoke to no human being but each other and our Irish courier, when we began to entertain serious thoughts of leaving the place in despair, by way of a parting effort we waited on our épicier, and prevailed on him to put on a bag and sword and carry us to the intendant of the police, whom he supplied with groceries. This scheme succeeded admirably. The intendant was extremely civil to us, and introduced us to the Archbishop, who gave us two very good and pleasant dinners, and would have had us stay a week with him. (N.B. Archbishops in England are not like Archevêques in France; these last are jolly fellows of about forty years of age, who play at billiards, &c. like other people.) We soon got acquainted with as many of the inhabitants as we could wish, especially an Abbé de Lageard, a fellow of infinite humour, and of such extraordinary humanity, that to prevent our time hanging heavy on our hands he would sometimes make us visits of five or six hours at a stretch. Our last week passed very pleasantly, and for myself I was really very sorry when the day arrived for our setting off for Paris."

The Abbé de Lageard was secretary to the Conseil d'état, and he has furnished some recollections of this visit:—

"One morning when the intendant of police brought me his daily report, he informed me, there are three Englishmen here of very suspicious character. They are in a wretched lodging, they have no attendance, yet their courier says, that they are 'grands seigneurs,' and that one of them is son of the great Chatham; but it is impossible, they must be 'des intrigants.' I had been in England, and knew that the younger sons of your noble families are not always wealthy, and I said to Mons. du Chatel, who wished to visit them officially and investigate their character, 'Let us be in no hurry, it may be perhaps as they represent, I will inquire about them myself.' I went to their lodgings the same evening and got their names from the courier, and true enough they were said to be Mr. W. Pitt, Mr. Wilberforce, and Mr. Eliot, all three members of the British parliament, and one of them lately a leading member of the government. The next morning I visited them, and as I was at once satisfied by their appearance I asked whether I could be of any use to them, and offered whatever the town of Rheims could afford for their amusement. Amongst other things Mr. Pitt complained, 'Here we are in the middle of Champagne, and we cannot get any tolerable wine.' 'Dine with me to-morrow,' I replied, 'and you shall have the best wine the country can afford.' They came and dined with me, and instead of moving directly after dinner, as we do in France, we sat talking for five or six hours."

In the succeeding spring we find Mr. Wilberforce exciting a sensation, by his extraordinary powers of eloquence, at a political meeting at York, got up against the Coalition Ministry:—

"When the proposers of the address had spoken, and the Whig lords had been heard in answer, the day was far advanced, and the listeners were growing

wearied of the contest. At this time Mr. Wilberforce mounted the table, from which, under a great wooden canopy before the high sheriff's chair, the various speakers had addressed the meeting. The weather was so bad 'that it seemed,' says an eye-witness, 'as if his slight frame would be unable to make head against its violence.' The castle yard, too, was so crowded, that men of the greatest physical powers had been scarcely audible. Yet such was the magic of his voice and the grace of his expression, that by his very first sentence he arrested, and for above an hour he continued to enchain, the attention of the surrounding multitude. The disadvantage under which his figure had at first appeared, from the scale and construction of the hustings, was soon forgotten in the force and animation of his manner.—'I saw,' said Boswell, describing the meeting to Dundas, 'what seemed a mere shrimp mount upon the table; but, as I listened, he grew, and grew, until the shrimp became a whale.' * He was distinctly heard to the utmost limits of the crowd, and interrupted only by an express from Mr. Pitt, which, without disconcerting him, enabled him with the greatest possible effect to announce to the assembled county, that by dissolving parliament, the King had at that very moment appealed to the decision of the nation.'

This dissolution suggested to Mr. Wilberforce, —who was then, according to his own after-confession, "very ambitious," —the idea of offering himself as representative for the county of York, and he was successful.

In the autumn of the same year he again visited the continent with a family party; and Isaac Milner for his own peculiar companion. To the close and increasingly confidential intercourse with this good man, Mr. Wilberforce's biographers ascribe the marked change which shortly afterwards passed over their father's mind. The succeeding year was divided between the continent and St. Stephen's. From the journals which relate to his residences abroad, there is little to be gathered. A glimpse, however, of the celebrated Swiss physiognomist is interesting:—

"Saw Lavater—He says that the English are remarkable for smooth foreheads, and strong-marked eye-brows. We called upon him in the evening—he could give us he said only half an hour, but we got him on the subject; his supposed revelations... physiognomy he dismissed as not serious enough to be mentioned in comparison... and he said, on our offering to go, such a conversation as that not to be broken off—it would be to go against Providence —strange stories—forty guineas—revelation—his papers prevented being discovered.' 'I had been chosen treasurer,' said Lavater, 'of a certain charitable institution, and had received the funds subscribed for its conduct, when a friend came in great distress, and begged me to advance him a sum of money to save him from bankruptcy. 'You should have it at once, but I have no such sum. 'You have the charity fund in your power; lend me what I need from that: long before the day comes on which you must pay it over, I shall be able to replace it, and you will save me and mine from ruin.' At last I reluctantly consented. His hopes, as I had foreseen, were disappointed; he could not repay me; and on the morrow I must give in my accounts. In an agony of feelings, I prayed earnestly that some way of escaping from my difficulties might yet present itself, that I might be saved from disgracing religion by such an apparent dishonesty. I rose from my knees, and in the nervous restlessness of a harassed mind, began to pull open every drawer I had, and ransack its contents. Why I did it I know not, but whilst I was thus engaged, my eye caught a small paper parcel, to the appearance of which I was a stranger. I opened it, I took it up, and found that it contained money. I tore it open, and found in it the sum I needed to settle my accounts. But how it came there, or where it came from, I could never learn." * Child spoke for whom he had prayed on christening. An excellent man in his whole conduct—kissed us with extreme affection, and said, if he received anything we should too. He and many others ardently look for the coming of some 'Elu,' who is to impart to them a large measure

of grace. He will know the 'Elu' the moment he sets eyes on him.*'

From this point, till the spring of 1786, when "Mr. Wilberforce returned an altered man to his business in the House of Commons," his journal and his biography are chiefly occupied by details of mental conflicts. In the progress of these, he was led to take spiritual counsel of the well-known John Newton; and the latter, far more rational, in the present instance, than in the case of poor Cowper, while he administered such counsel to the neophyte as was judged seasonable, appeared to designate his future career for him, by advising him not to withdraw suddenly, or phrasically, from his old associates. The return to parliament marks the commencement of an epoch in Mr. Wilberforce's life, which only closed forty-seven years afterwards by his serene and hopeful death. As therefore, in a future notice, we shall have to consider him in the unremitting pursuit of his schemes of benevolence, it may be well here to introduce a few episodical sketches and anecdotes of his parliamentary associates, "let slip" by himself, (to use the words of his friend Mr. Harford,) in which there is perhaps less reference to the great principles and objects of life, than pervades the remainder of the book:—

"When Lord Londonderry was in his ordinary mood, he was very tiresome, so slow and heavy, his sentences only half formed, his matter so confined, like what is said of the French army in the Moscow retreat, when horse, foot, and carriages of all sorts were huddled together, helter-skelter; yet when he was thoroughly warmed and excited, he was often very fine, very statesman-like, and seemed to rise quite into another man.

"Our general impression of Sheridan was, that he came to the House with his flashes prepared and ready to let off. He avoided encountering Pitt in unforeseen debating, but when forced to it usually came off well.

"Fox was often truly wonderful. He would begin at full tear, and roll on for hours together without tiring either himself or us.

"Pitt talked a great deal among his friends. Fox in general society was quiet and unassuming. Sheridan was a jolly companion, and told good stories, but has been overrated as a wit by Moore.

"Fox was truly amiable in private life, and great allowance ought to be made for him: his father was a profligate politician, and allowed him as much money to gamble with as ever he wished.

"I asked him if he remembered the miser Elwes in the House of Commons? Perfectly; and that question reminds me of a curious incident which one day befell that strange being. In my younger days we often went to the House in full dress, on nights, for example, when we were any of us going to the opera. Bankes, on an occasion of this kind, was seated next Elwes, who was leaning his head forward just at the moment when Bankes rose hastily to leave his seat, and the hilt of his sword happening to come in contact with the miser's wig, which he had probably picked off some scare-screw, it was unconsciously borne away by Bankes, who walked in his stately way down the House, followed by Elwes full of anxiety to regain his treasure. The House was in a roar of merriment, and for a moment Bankes looked about him wondering exceedingly what had happened. The explanation was truly amusing, when he became conscious of the sword-hilt which he had acquired." *

"We were talking of the levity and gaiety of heart of the French, even under the severest misfortunes. This drew forth an anecdote, which had been related to him by Mr. Pitt. Shortly after the tragical death of Marie Antoinette, M. Perigord, an emigrant of some consequence, who had made Mr. Pitt's acquaintance at Versailles, took refuge in England, and on coming to London went to pay his respects in Downing Street. The conversation naturally turned upon

* Milner subsequently endeavoured to reclaim Lavater from his mystical notions, by a Latin letter, in the composition of which he took vast pains. 'I am a poor man,' Lavater briefly replied, 'and the postage of long letters is inconvenient to me.'"

the bloody scenes of the French Revolution; on their fatal consequences to social order; and in particular on the barbarity with which the unfortunate Queen had been treated. The Frenchman's feelings were quite overcome, and he exclaimed amidst violent sobbing, 'Ah Monsieur Pitt, la pauvre Reine! la pauvre Reine!' These words had scarcely been uttered, when he jumped up as if a new idea suddenly possessed him, and looking towards a little dog which came with him, he exclaimed, 'Cependant, Monsieur Pitt, il faut vous faire voir mon petit chien danser.' Then pulling a small kit out of his pocket, he began dancing about the room to the sound of his little instrument, and calling to the dog, 'Fanchon, Fanchon, dansez, dansez;' the little animal instantly obeyed, and they cut such capers together that the minister's gravity was quite overcome, and he burst into a loud laugh, hardly knowing whether he was most amused or astonished.

"One day while Hastings' trial was proceeding, an important point came on when only Burke and two or three more were present—little Michael Angelo among them, very pompous. Ned Law, who was to argue the case at Hastings' counsel, began, 'It is a pity, sir, to raise a discussion on this matter. This is no doubtful question of political expedience, it is a mere point of law, and my honourable friend there is pointing to little Michael, 'from his accurate knowledge of the law, which he has practised with so much success, can confirm fully what I say.' Michael puffed and swelled, and almost asserted. Burke was quite furious, and ran to him and shook him, saying, 'You little rogue, what do you mean by asserting to this?' Michael is talked of for a peer. It is an unlikely; he has no son. He was left a good fortune by his father, who was a builder, and he got on by keeping a good cook and giving excellent dinner. I remember Sheridan playing off on him one of his amusing tricks. He did not know where to go for a dinner, so sitting down by Michael Angelo he said, 'There is a law question likely to rise presently on which from your legal knowledge you will be wanted to reply to Pitt, so I hope you will not think of leaving the House.' Michael sat still with no little pleasure, while Sheridan slipped out, walked over to Michael's house, and ordered up dinner, saying to the servants, 'Your master is not coming home this evening.' He made an excellent dinner, came back to the House, and seeing Michael looking expectant, went to release him, saying, 'I am sorry to have kept you, for after all I believe this matter will not now come on to-night.' Michael immediately walked home, and heard to his no little consternation, when he rang for dinner, 'Mr. Sheridan had it, sir, about two hours ago.'

"General Smith, Sir Sydney's uncle, put his papers into my hands: amongst them a most extraordinary correspondence between Lord Elgin and Sir Sydney. Sir Sydney was most scandalously used. Others had ribbands and peccages, but he never had anything. At the time of the siege of Acre, he got from the old Pacha a ring, or some other emblem of authority, which gave him absolute command over all the gates; and one of his first employments of it was, to go to the Pacha's dungeon and set all the captives free. The Pacha grumbled in vain, exclaiming pathetically, 'But, Sir Sydney, they owe me moneys....'

"Whitbread was a rough speaker; he spoke as if he had a pot of porter at his lips and all his words came through it. I remember his drawing tears from me upon the Lottery question. After Canning's speech on Lord Bexley's Resolution about a pound note and a shilling being of equal value with a guinea, he said to me, 'Well, I do envy him the power of making that speech.' This was very curious to me, because I never could have guessed that it was at all the model to which he aspired. Poor Canning! I knew him well, and he knew that I knew him. He felt that I knew him before he became well acquainted with Pitt. He had a mind susceptible of the forms of great ideas; as for these men, they have not minds up to anything of the sort; their minds would burst with the attempt. I have often talked openly with Canning, and I cannot but hope that some good may have come from it. When I was with him once, he was in bed, on a sort of sofa-bed, at Gloucester Lodge, and Southey was mentioned. 'I did not know that he was in town.' 'Yes, he is, and dines with me to-morrow; but I am afraid you

will not come.' 'I am not a first-rate man; I was so bad.' If effect is not in spite of you, C. Hippisley by laughing more finish was done to him. People were on him on this from politi- ing in even- ced the well remem- ing most al- out either me over, 'Does indeed? If you give impartial care, One o- milly was quantity of if you had would have like, please no business House, and novel, with had nothing member c him look by him. been repro- arars by I went up to him as possible, asked him death; he had nine have this to be re- extraordi- only mind is just as 'Mich- going up. Pitt wall not know the fall in coming the other Angelo, it my duty by, giv- serving N I am tra- he cut y- New much m- Now he is 'Wh- he was p- biddings court, an will ever I am su- I am filled the With- the Pa- and of the Tim- tions and The fir- the aut- gave a

will not come because it is Sunday.' Canning was not a first-rate speaker! Oh he was as different as possible from Pitt, and from old Fox too, though he was so rough; he had not that art, 'celare artem.' If effect is the criterion of good speaking, Canning was nothing to them, for he never drew you to him in spite of yourself. You never lost sight of Canning; even in that admirable speech of his about Sir John C. Hillesley, when your muscles were so exercised by laughing, it was the same thing; yet he was a more finished orator than Pitt. Oh how little justice was done to Pitt on Warren Hastings' business! People were asking, what could make Pitt support him on this point and on that, as if he was acting from political motives; whereas he was always weighing in every particular whether Hastings had exceeded the discretionary power lodged in him. I well remember, I could swear to it now, Pitt listening most attentively to some facts which were coming out either in the first or second case. He beckoned me over, and went with me behind the chair, and said, 'Does not this look very ill to you?' 'Very bad indeed.' He then returned to his place and made his speech, giving up Hastings' case. He paid as much impartial attention to it as if he were a jurymen.

'One of the most remarkable things about Romilly was, that though he had such an immense quantity of business, he always seemed an idle man. If you had not known who and what he was, you would have said—"he is a remarkably gentleman-like, pleasant man; I suppose, poor fellow, he has no business"—for he would stand at the bar of the House, and chat with you, and talk over the last novel, with which he was as well acquainted as if he had nothing else to think about. Once indeed I remember coming to speak to him in court, and seeing him look fagged and with an immense pile of papers by him. This was at a time when Lord Eldon had been reproached for having left business undischarged, and had declared that he would get through all areas by sitting on until the business was done. As I went up to Romilly, old Eldon saw me, and beckoned to me with as much cheerfulness and gaiety as possible. When I was alone with Romilly, and asked him how he was, he answered, 'I am worn to death; here have we been sitting on in the vacation, from nine in the morning until four; and when we leave this place, I have to read through all my papers to be ready for to-morrow morning; but the most extraordinary part of all is, that Eldon, who has not only mine, but all the other business to go through, is just as cheerful and untired as ever.'

'Michael Angelo Taylor, he said, was one day going up St. James's Street with M. when they saw Pitt walking down it with immense strides. I do not know whether you ever happened to observe that the fall in St. James's Street makes those who are coming down it seem to overlook those who are going the other way. 'I am very sorry,' said Michael Angelo, 'but Pitt's conduct has been such, that I feel it my duty to cut him, as you will see.' Pitt walked by, giving rather a haughty nod to M., and never observing Michael Angelo at all. 'You saw I cut him,' I am truly glad you told me. I should have thought he cut you.'

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'Never was there a man whose character was so much misunderstood. He was thought very proud. Now he was a very little proud and very shy.'

'While he still condescended to practise the law, he was pleading in Chancery against the opening the biddings for an estate which had been sold by the court, and he said, 'If this is done, no sensible man will ever bid again for an estate sold by Chancery. I am sure I never will,' a declaration which of course filled the court with merriment.'

With these lively and valuable fragments we conclude for the present.

The Progress of the Nation, in its various Social and Economical Relations, from the beginning of the Nineteenth Century to the Present Time. By G. R. Porter, Esq., F.R.S. Sections III. and IV., *Interchange, and Revenue and Expenditure.* Knight & Co.

The first volume of this work was published in the autumn of 1836, and we then (No. 468,) gave an account of the statistical information

therein collected, respecting the population of Great Britain and the occupations of its inhabitants. Our attention must now be directed to the subject of interchange, including all the means of internal communication, and foreign commerce. The facilities, in this country, of transport for persons and property, has often been a subject of admiration with intelligent foreigners. The first element of our superiority is the excellence of our roads: few persons are aware of the almost magical effect produced by opening a new and good road. Mr. Porter informs us that—

'An inhabitant of Horsham, in Sussex, now living, remembers, when a boy, to have heard from a person whose father carried on the business of a butcher in that town, that in his time the only means of reaching the metropolis was either by going on foot or riding on horseback, the latter of which undertakings was not practicable at all periods of the year, nor in every state of the weather—that the roads were not at any time in such a condition as to admit of sheep or cattle being driven upon them to the London markets, and that, for this reason, the farmers were prevented sending thither the produce of their land, the immediate neighbourhood being, in fact, their only market. Under these circumstances, a quarter of a fat ox was commonly sold for about 15s., and the price of mutton throughout the year was only five farthings the pound. Horsham is 36 miles from London, and the journey between the two places now occupies less than four hours; more than 30 stage-coaches travelling at this rate pass through Horsham every day, on their way from and to the metropolis, in addition to numerous private carriages and post-chaises; the traffic of goods—principally coal and agricultural produce—carried on in the district of which Horsham is the centre, exceeds 40,000 tons a-year, besides which, the road is constantly covered with droves of cattle and flocks of sheep.'

Horsham is situated in the weald of Sussex, and perhaps Mr. Porter himself will be surprised to hear that so late as the reign of Elizabeth, or her father, that part of the country was as wild, and almost as unknown, as the back settlements of America—that a judge, in the reign of James the First, we believe, for we write from memory, observed, when delivering judgment on a question raised as to the boundary of an estate—"in my father's time men were accustomed to locate themselves in those wild parts, in the same manner, and with as little question about right and title, as they now do in the new settlement of Virginia."

The change in the navigation of the Thames since the establishment of steam-boats, has indisputably proved that increasing the facilities of communication will multiply the number of travellers, in a far greater proportion than could have been at first anticipated.

The number of passengers conveyed between London and Gravesend by steam-packets in 1835 was ascertained by the collector of the pier dues at the latter town to have been 670,452. It was stated in evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons in 1836, that at least 1,057,000 passengers, including those to and from Gravesend, pass Blackwall in steam-vessels every year. In confirmation of the fact that the establishment of additional facility in travelling is embraced by persons who would not otherwise be induced to quit their homes, we may refer to the continually increasing number of licences for stage coaches issued every year from the Stamp Office, and to the great and constantly increasing number of omnibuses which are continually traversing the great thoroughfares of London without displacing the hackney carriages which were previously in use. The number of passengers conveyed by the Hull and Selby steam-packets in the 12 months which preceded the opening of the Leeds and Selby railway was 33,882, whereas in the 12 months that followed that event, the number conveyed was 62,105.'

It is the peculiar characteristic of England, that these and similar results have been produced by the people, not by the government: indivi-

dual enterprise, or private associations, have proved so much more beneficial and powerful than the central force of the state. Still we share Mr. Porter's regret, that some measures of precaution were not taken in carrying forward the railway system.

"Perhaps there never was an occasion in which the Government could with equal propriety have interfered to reconcile the conflicting interests involved, and to prevent the public injury arising from the false steps so likely to be made at first in bringing about a total revolution in the internal communications of the country. It is not meant by these remarks to assert that Government should have taken into its own hands the construction of all or any of the railroads called for by the wants of the community; but only to suggest the propriety and advantage that must have resulted from a preliminary inquiry, made by competent and uninterested professional men, with a view to ascertain the comparative advantages and facilities offered by different lines for the accomplishment of the object in view. If this course had been adopted before any of the numerous projects were brought forward for the construction of lines of railway between all imaginable places, and if it had been laid down as a rule by the legislature that no such projected line could be sanctioned or even entertained by parliament which was not in accordance with the reports and recommendations of the government engineers, the saving of money would have been immense. The expensive contests between rival companies, in which large capitals have been so needlessly sunk, would then have been wholly avoided; and it might further have followed from this cause, that a kind of public sanction having been given to particular lines and localities, much of that personal opposition which has thrown difficulties in the way of works of great and acknowledged utility, would never have been brought forward. The parliamentary contests here alluded to, have, in fact, been between private individuals, and the victory has remained with that one of the contending parties who could interest the greatest number of legislators: whereas, if the lines had been selected as the best that could be chosen, and sanctioned by men of professional skill and character, the legislature could never have listened to the pretensions of parties, who, through the use of family or personal influence, have, in too many cases, set up a show of opposition in order to extort exorbitant sums under the name of compensation."

Steam-boats have done more to cement the union between England and Ireland, than all the acts of parliament which have passed since the reign of the second Henry. Agricultural industry, in the sister kingdom, has received an extraordinary impulse from the opening of new and steady markets, where demand increases faster than supply. The total value of live animals imported from Ireland at Liverpool alone, during the year 1837, amounted to nearly four millions sterling; and the importations to Bristol are scarcely inferior.

"The value in money, of one seemingly unimportant article, eggs, taken in the course of the year to the above two ports from Ireland, amounts to at least 100,000. The progress of this trade affords a curious illustration of the advantage of commercial facilities in stimulating production and equalizing prices. Before the establishment of steam-vessels the market at Cork was most irregularly supplied with eggs from the surrounding district; at certain seasons they were exceedingly abundant and cheap, but these seasons were sure to be followed by periods of scarcity and high prices, and at times it is said to have been difficult to purchase eggs at any price in the market. At the first opening of the improved channel for conveyance to England, the residents at Cork had to complain of the constant high price of this and other articles of farm produce; but as a more extensive market was now permanently open to them, the farmers gave their attention to the rearing and keeping of poultry, and, at the present time, eggs are procurable at all seasons in the market at Cork, not, it is true, at the extremely low rate at which they could formerly be sometimes bought, but still at much less than the average price of the year: a like result has fol-

lowed the introduction of this great improvement in regard to the supply and cost of various articles of produce. In the apparently unimportant article—feathers—it may be stated, on the respectable authority above quoted, that the yearly importation into England from Ireland reaches the amount of 500,000!

The present aspect of our foreign commerce is not equally satisfactory; nations have not yet laid aside their absurd war of prohibitions and restrictions; protections for petted, and, in many cases, petty interests, are allowed to interfere with the general advantages of nations, and we fear that the remedy must be sought in the march of events, rather than in the wisdom of statesmen. The mischievous folly of the protective system is curiously illustrated by Mr. Porter, in his remarks on the French prohibitory duties on foreign iron:—

"It was given in evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons which sat in 1833 to inquire as to the tolls to be placed on steam-carriages, that every coach which travels between London and Birmingham distributes about eleven pounds weight of wrought iron along the line of road between those two places. This line of road being more than ordinarily level, and being kept in a state of the most perfect repair at all times, may be supposed to cause as little wear to the wheels of carriages and the shoes of horses as can well be experienced upon a common road, and far less than would be experienced on the ill-formed and worse-conditioned roads of France. If it were possible to estimate the number of miles travelled over by the various wheel-carriages used in that country, where almost all locomotion is carried forward upon the roads, the amount of loss arising from this source must needs be found enormous. If the wear were no greater than upon the hard and level road between London and Birmingham, the loss of iron upon every journey performed between Marseilles and Paris would amount to twenty-five kilogrammes, the cost of which is 18s., one-half of which might be saved by freely admitting the iron of other countries."

But France, alone, does not sacrifice the general interests of the community to the protection, or rather to gratifying the prejudices of an influential class: England, with all its intelligence, its countless lecturers on political economy, its enterprising merchants,—England is losing the command of the markets most available and most profitable for her produce.

"That part of our commerce which, being carried on with the richest and most civilized inhabitants of European nations, should present the greatest field for extension, will be seen to have fallen off in a remarkable degree. The average annual exports to the whole of Europe were less in value by nearly 20 per cent., in the five years from 1832 to 1836, than they were in the five years that followed the close of the war, and it affords strong evidence of the unsatisfactory footing upon which our trading regulations with Europe are established, that our exports to the United States of America, with their population of only twelve millions are removed to a distance from us of 3000 miles across the Atlantic, have amounted to more than one-half of the value of our shipments to the whole of Europe with a population fifteen times as great as that of the United States of America, and with an abundance of productions suited to our wants, and which they are desirous of exchanging for the produce of our mines and looms."

Mr. Porter has not only stated the evil, but pointed out the cause:—

"The two great monopolies of corn and timber, the first maintained for the benefit of the possessors of land, the second conceded to the clamour of a certain class of ship-owners, are now the chief obstacles to the growth of our commercial relations with European nations. These monopolies, the injustice of which to the nation at large has been so often and so unanswerably shown, cannot much longer be suffered to interfere with the onward course of the country. It is now the general opinion that the most grievous of the two, that which condemns the people to pay more for their food than is paid by the inhabitants of other countries, must be swept away at the

very first occurrence of an unfavourable harvest, and there are strong grounds for believing that the colonists, for the pretended benefit of whom the present discriminating duty on timber is continued, will shortly add their efforts to those of the consumers in this country for its abolition."

In one most important branch of our manufactures we have raised up formidable rivals to ourselves on the continent; and the low rate of wages there paid to the operatives fully compensates for the superiority of British capital, machinery, and supply of fuel.

"The cotton manufacture of Saxony has already become of twice the extent that it had reached before the Union (the Prussian Commercial League), while the linen and woollen manufactures of that country have not experienced any increase. The reason for this difference is, that the persons engaged in the latter, which are more ancient branches of industry in Saxony, are so far 'protected,' that it is necessary to serve a regular apprenticeship, and to obtain admission into the guilds or corporations established in the manufacturing towns, before any man is allowed to carry on the business; while the recently-established cotton manufacture is without restriction or regulation of any kind, so that any person who can purchase or hire a loom is at liberty to become a cotton weaver. The manufacturers are greatly encouraged by the miserably low rate of wages in Saxony. It is stated on the best authority, that in October, 1837, 'a man employed in his loom, working very diligently from Monday morning until Saturday night, from five o'clock in the morning until dusk, and even at times with a lamp, his wife assisting him in finishing and taking him the work, could not possibly earn more than 20 groschen (2s. 6d. sterling) per week, and that another man who had three children aged 12 years and upwards, all working at the loom as well as himself, with his wife employed doing up the work, could not earn in the whole more than 1 dollar 8 groschen (5s. 4d.) weekly.' * * The quantity of cotton hosiery made in Saxony has increased immensely of late, and from its cheapness has not only secured the monopoly of the markets afforded throughout the Union, but has also been shipped largely to the United States, to the exclusion so far of the goods made at Nottingham. It may be stated, on the respectable authority already quoted, that cotton gloves are furnished by the Saxon manufacturers as low as 6 groschen or 9d. sterling per dozen pairs; stockings, at 1 dollar or 3s. per dozen pairs; and nightcaps, at 8 groschen or 1s. per dozen. Stout cotton caps, which are worn by the Carmen and common people in that part of Germany, having stripes in six different colours upon a black ground, cost 12 groschen per dozen, or 14d. sterling each."

We cannot follow Mr. Porter through his investigations of the revenue and expenditure, but we recommend them to the attention of all who feel interested in forming an estimate of the welfare of the nation. They are the results of patient and extensive research, arranged with equal skill and fairness.

A Narrative of a Voyage round the World, &c. By W. S. W. Ruschenberger, M.D.

[Second Notice.]

Few ever visit the East without carrying with them some visionary expectations of barbaric pearl and gold, which are doomed to be disappointed. In the sea-ports of southern India in particular, the splendid dreams which the very name of the country gives rise to, are painfully broken off by the pressing sense of the squalid reality. For this reason we shall decline following Dr. Ruschenberger in his account of what he saw in the vicinity of Bombay; though it must be acknowledged that his opinions seem in general fair and uninfluenced by national bias; and as he has been allowed to make use of the notes of Mr. Roberts, whose diplomatic capacity procured him many opportunities of collecting statistical information, some fragments of solid matter are occasionally scattered through his pages. But we cannot tarry on shores so well

known to the British public, and hasten therefore to quit our Indian possessions, having first cast an eye on one of their most curious and least studied appendages, we mean the pearl banks of Ceylon.

These banks are formed by coral ridges from six to ten miles off shore: their general depth is from five to seven fathoms, but it is on the banks of Arippo, where the coral rising nearly to the surface of the water forms a shelter against the violence of the monsoons and currents, that the pearl oyster chiefly arrives at perfection. The young oysters, when they first escape from the egg, are seen floating about the sea in immense clusters; a little increase in size and solidity makes them sink to the bottom, where they immediately attach themselves to the rocks by means of a beard and a glutinous matter secreted from it. There they remain in security until age has enfeebled the fibres of their beard or deprived them of their adhesiveness, and then they drop from their coral supports and lie in heaps on the sandy bank beneath. The pearl-divers say that the oyster is about six years and a half old when it drops from the rock; it is supposed to arrive at perfection in seven years, and to die soon after. During their clinging period they accumulate on the rocks in heaps, sometimes eighteen inches or two feet deep. The best pearls are generally found in the most fleshy part of the oyster, near the hinge of the shell, but they are not confined to any part of the fish. Instances have occurred of a single oyster containing above sixty pearls; yet the rarity of these treasures is manifest from the fact that oysters cost less at Arippo during the fishery than at Faversham or Colchester. The pearl fishery of Ceylon is "a government monopoly," observes our author, "and, being managed on very just and politic principles, is the only unobjectionable one of which I have any knowledge." And again he says, "without a protecting system the pearl fishery would soon become profitless; the beds and banks would be destroyed, and the oyster itself would disappear from the waters of Ceylon; to remove this monopoly therefore would be to kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

During the calms of November the banks are examined by experienced officers, and samples of the oysters are forwarded to the seat of government. If the result of the examination prove favourable, then the fishery is announced by an advertisement, stating when and on what bank it is to take place, how long it is to continue, and how many boats will be allowed to engage in it. These boats are of very rude construction, generally from eight to fifteen tons burden, and without decks. They leave the shore at midnight, favoured by the land winds, and anchor near the government guard-vessel and the fishing bank. A little after dawn in the morning a signal is given for the diving to begin, and a gun is fired at noon, on which it ceases. The following description of the mode of proceeding was procured by our author on the spot:

"The crew of a boat consists of a Tindal or master, ten divers, and thirteen other men who manage the boat and attend the divers when fishing. Each boat has five diving stones (the ten divers relieving each other); five divers are constantly at work during the hours of fishing. The weight of the diving stone varies from 15 to 25 lb., according to the size of the diver; some stout men find it necessary to have from 4 to 8 lb. of stone in a waist-belt, to enable them to keep at the bottom of the sea, to fill their net with oysters. The form of a diving stone resembles the cone of a pine; it is suspended by a double cord.

"The net is of coir-rope yarns, 18 inches deep, fastened to a hoop 18 inches wide, fairly slung to a single cord. On preparing to commence fishing, the diver divests himself of all his clothes, except a small piece of cloth; after offering up his devotions, he

plunges into which his attire; he places his cord being passed around the hoop of stone, and takes out of the boat. The diver as much as he can premiers his hook slips his cord descends as reaching the hauled up again, clinging his net. The over a space under water checks the attendants they are also it is so far of upsetting the cord he likewise pur has acquire cord, place time the boat he will take They seldom more common seconds, but possible, than ascend a sensation.

The divers descend under water is therefore least as in the ship up belong posed of the derived f 14,000/-, divers we 25,000/-

Dr. R complim government all friend session o Britain experim increasinc of that success. have yiel tempts to provad a Dutch a settlemen five milion wholly from the government how the und has blin vantage spirit e United country Machia latter.

plunges into the sea and swims to his diving stone, which his attendants have slung over the side of the boat; he places his right foot or toes between the double cord on the diving stone—the bight of the cord being passed over a stick projecting from the side of the boat; by grasping all parts of the rope he is enabled to support himself and the stone, and raise or lower the latter for his own convenience while he remains at the surface; he then puts his left foot on the hoop of the net and presses it against the diving stone, retaining the cord in his hand. The attendants take care that the cords are clear for running out of the boat.

"The diver being thus prepared, he raises his body as much as he is able; drawing a full breath, he presses his nostrils between his thumb and finger, slips his hold of the bight of the diving stone, and descends as rapidly as the stone will sink him. On reaching the bottom he abandons the stone, which is hauled up by the attendants ready to take him down again, clings to the ground, and commences filling his net. To accomplish this he will sometimes creep over a space of eight or ten fathoms, and remain under water a minute; when he wishes to ascend he checks the cord of the net, which is instantly felt by the attendants, who commence pulling up as fast as they are able. The diver remains with the net until it is so far clear of the bottom as to be in no danger of upsetting, and then begins to haul himself up by the cord hand over hand, which the attendants are likewise pulling. When by these means his body has acquired an impetus upwards he forsakes the cord, places his hands to his thighs, rapidly ascends to the surface, swims to his diving stone, and by the time the contents of his net have been emptied into the boat he is ready to go down again. One diver will take up in a day from 1000 to 4000 oysters. They seldom exceed a minute under water; the more common time is from fifty-three to fifty-seven seconds, but when requested to remain as long as possible, they can prolong their stay to something more than eighty seconds. They are warned to ascend by a singing noise in the ears, and finally by a sensation similar to hiccup."

The divers have much faith in the powers of the shark-charmer, and many of them will not descend unless he be present; the worthy wizard is therefore paid by government, and inspires at least as much confidence in the divers as terror in the sharks. One-fourth of the oysters taken up belong to the divers, the remainder are disposed of by public sale. The annual nett revenue derived from the pearl fishery is estimated at 14,000^l, but in 1833, when no less than 1250 divers were employed, it amounted to more than 25,000^l.

Dr. Ruschenberger animadverts in no very complimentary terms, on the spirit of the Dutch government in the East, and laments, as indeed all friends of civilization must do, that the possession of Java was ever relinquished by Great Britain. It appears that since 1830 several experiments have been made with the view of increasing the number of the staple productions of that island, but in every instance without success. Extensive plantations of the tea shrub have yielded little and soon perished. The attempts to produce sugar and silk have likewise proved abortive. The detestation in which the Dutch are held by the natives, entails on these settlements the necessity of maintaining expensive military establishments. The political vexations of Holland for some years back have been wholly attributable to the provocations arising from the grasping temper of its purely mercantile government, and nothing can show more clearly how the habit of brooding over money narrows the understanding, than the extent to which it has blinded a highly-civilized people to the advantages of a liberal policy. The commercial spirit exists as energetic and influential in the United States as in Holland, but in the former country it is quite freed from the antiquated Machiavellian maxims which govern it in the latter. The contrast between the old and the

new, the monopoly and the free trade systems, cannot be better studied than by a comparison of those two countries, both enjoying freedom, and educated as federal republics. How widely they are separated in sentiments may be inferred from the following comments of our author on the exclusive trade of the Dutch to Japan:—

"When we see a nation or a company of men consenting to be treated as menials, to hide their religious opinions, and subject themselves to the capricious and fantastical laws of a people they deem every way inferior to themselves, for the sake of gaining a hundred and thirty or forty thousand dollars a year, we must cease to regard them with that respect which is the right of every high-minded and honourable society. Whatever might be the advantage to the United States of a commerce with Japan or any other nation, let us hope that it will be established only on the basis of reciprocity. On any other footing it were better to leave the advantages to those slaves and base panders whose moral condition may be so pliant as to allow them to succumb to any terms for money."

When the *Peacock* arrived at the mouth of the Meinam, on which river stands Bankok, the capital of Siam, Mr. Roberts and officers set off at once in the boats to ascend the river to the city; but their progress was soon arrested by the terrified Siamese functionaries, whose skins, or heads, perhaps, were placed in jeopardy by such a breach of etiquette. Remonstrance was in vain; impatience of delay could effect nothing against the laws of the realm; and then the captain of the port placed the matter in so vivid, and withal so droll a light, as must have completely allayed the impetuosity of the Americans. He replied, that different nations have different customs. "In the presence of your king, that you call President, you stand up, and pull off your hat; in the presence of the King of Siam, you sit down, and pull off your shoes. Your laws are different from those of Siam; all the same as between heaven and ——" looking significantly, and, at the same time, pointing downwards.

The ship was honoured by a visit from Momfano, the heir presumptive to the throne—a remarkable personage even in the pages of our author, who yet does not seem acquainted with the full extent of his merits. His personal appearance is thus minutely described:—

"The prince was dressed in a jacket of pink damasked crêpe, closely fitting the body, and reaching from the hips to the throat; a sash of dark silk, knotted in front, the ends hanging down nearly to the ground, and over it was tied a light sash, upon which two jewelled rings of large size were strung. This costume left the head, arms, and legs bare. He has an active, determined look; his stature is not more than five feet five inches; his limbs are stout, and well proportioned; his complexion is olive, almost as dark as that of the majority of negroes met with in the northern and middle sections of the United States; his hair is coarse, and black, and, excepting a tuft, trimmed and standing up like bristles on the top of the head, is cut very close. The general character of his features is that of the Mongol race. The form of the eye is paraboloid, the upper lid extending, in a thin fold, over the lower one at the side of the nose, which is rather flat; the lips are full, the chin retreating; and, with the exception of a few hairs on the upper lip, he has no beard. The superior lateral parts of the forehead are a little flattened, while the upper and middle part is prominent; the supra-orbital region is full, and the eyes set well apart. Such is the personal description, which I have thus minutely given, of the most promising individual among the Siamese."

This promising individual, as our author styles him, is master of the English language, which he learned from the missionaries, and knows the value of books. Like Peter the Great, he has made ship-building his study, and has built a small vessel, after a European model, with more expense of personal labour probably

than his illustrious prototype. He is half-brother to the king, who, although lord of 300 wives, has no legitimate children capable of succeeding to the throne. The name Momfano, according to our author, (Chow fa nooi, according to Gutzlaff,) means Prince of Heaven, junior. But it is time to proceed with the embassy, and to visit the capital:—

"Bankok is built upon the river Meinam, at a point where it is about half a mile wide, and perhaps twenty miles in a direct line from the sea. It extends about two miles and a half up and down the river, and from a mile to a mile and a half on each side of it. Bankok Proper is on the right or western bank, while that on the left, from the palace being situated there, is named Sia-Yut'hia, but to the eye it appears all one town. It is irregular in its plan, and is everywhere intersected by canals. The streets are dirty, and narrow; the paved walk in the middle being scarcely wide enough for two persons to walk abreast. The reason for this, according to the Siamese, is, that there are no two of the same rank in the kingdom, and etiquette does not permit individuals of different degrees to walk side by side! Many of the houses are extensive, but the greater portion of them are miserable bamboo huts, without any appearance of comfort. Trees are everywhere numerous, and the frequent 'Wâts,' or Buddhist temples, with their gilt and glazed tile roofs and spires, sparkling in the sun, give to the city a picturesque appearance, and an air of wealth and magnificence.

"Each side of the river is lined with houses, every one shop, built on rafts of bamboo, moored or staked to the banks. The fronts are open like verandas, wherein various goods are exposed for sale. A row of Chinese junks, from two to six hundred tons each, extend for more than two miles, at anchor in the middle of the stream, where they often remain for months, retailing their cargoes; and though streets, canals, and river are crowded with people and boats, there is neither the bustle nor buzz of the multitude which would be found in an equally dense population in any Christian city. From daylight until dark the river presents an animated scene. The gondolas of this Eastern Venice, called sampans, are of every variety of size, from the mere nut-shell, to that moved by half a dozen paddles; and there are some of large dimensions, permanently occupied by whole families, along the banks of the canals."

The Siamese, living always on the water, may be said to be a swimming people, though they have a great dread of the sea. They are seen bathing at all times of the day, either swimming, or squatted on the verandas in front of the houses, dipping basins into the river, and pouring the water over themselves. Nay, Dr. Ruschenberger even assures us, that Bankok presented, not long ago, the singular phenomenon of an amphibious infant, that forsook its mother's breast, and betook itself to the waters.

Bankok has, at present, a population of half a million, of whom four hundred thousand are Chinese. It is the capital of the most fertile country in Asia; and, under a good government, might become the greatest city in the East. The Chinese, who are chiefly from the Canton province, are peaceable and industrious; but, for want of attractive amusements in their hours of relaxation, they are sadly addicted to gaming. The licensed gaming-houses are a fruitful source of revenue; and, to make them more productive, gaming in private houses is strictly forbidden. Every four months, however, the prohibition is suspended for three days; and the despair and insatiate hopes produced during this periodical unbridling of a ruinous passion, are sufficient to keep a large number of licensed gaming-houses in full play for the remainder of the year. Passing over minor spectacles, richly-caperisoned dirty white elephants, and a great temple, of which our author records the quadripartite name, and gives a bewildering description, apparently copied from the puffing

account of new scenery sometimes seen appended to a play-bill, we proceed at once to the business of the embassy, and the audience of royalty :—

" Mr. Roberts and his companions entered the middle door of the front of the hall, and, passing round the screen, found themselves in the presence of His Magnificent Majesty, and the royal court of the magnificent kingdom of Thai. His Majesty, a fat man, of about fifty, sat like the god Boudah, cross-legged upon his throne, enveloped in a rich mantle of gold tissue, chewing betel, and squinting saliva into a golden urn. Numerous attendants prepared his betel, and with large fans circulated the air about his Majestic Obesity, as he sat in the pomp and circumstance of state.

" Except a long space, eight feet wide, in front of the throne, the whole floor was covered by nobles, courtiers, and magnates of the land, in silk and gold costume, the fashion of which was a long tight jacket, with short skirt, somewhat resembling the cut of an ancient coat of mail. There were several Arabs and Persians present, in rich Cashmere shawl turbans, contrasting their splendid statures with the squat forms of the Siamese; and their expressive countenances, strongly marked by the jetty whisker and antimony-shaded eye, outshone them in intelligence. Perhaps three hundred individuals composed this goodly company; every one crouching upon his knees and elbows, with the head bent upon the ground. The hall only admitted a subdued light. Jewels appeared to advantage, and the diamonds and carbuncles on the King's person glittered and flashed all around like miniature lightning."

The king addressed several questions to Mr. Roberts, which were filtered through three interpreters; by which means, all the unpleasant particles were intercepted, much to the dissatisfaction, apparently, of the American envoy. At the expiration of three-quarters of an hour, a tinkling sound was heard, and a curtain of silk, drawn across the hall, hid his Majesty from view. The embassy then made three salams; the whole court bent their heads three times to the floor, and so the ceremony terminated. The ratifications of the treaty were soon after exchanged. The stipulations of this treaty were of a general nature, and chiefly calculated to guard against arbitrary imposts.

From Siam, the American vessels sailed to Turon bay, in Cochin China; and, sending a letter to the minister at Hué, Mr. Roberts made an attempt to negotiate a treaty there also; but he failed completely. The dread of the European race, or the necessity of conforming to the policy of China, closed the ears of the Cochin Chinese; and they had little difficulty in evading the importunities of the American negotiator, as he went unprovided with an interpreter. During the delay which took place at Turon, sickness broke out in the ships, which eventually carried off Mr. Roberts and Mr. Campbell, the commander of the transport *Enterprise*. The former appears to have been a man of considerable abilities; and the important treaties which he negotiated, and happily lived to see completely ratified, reflect much credit on him, as well as on the country and government which could so readily turn to account the diplomatic talents of an unofficial individual. But leaving China, which, if exquisite cookery be a test of civilization, is, according to Dr. Ruschenberger, the most civilized country on earth, we shall hastily glance at the Bonin Islands, situated in the Pacific Ocean, in about latitude 27° 6' N., and longitude 142° 16' E., and which have been but recently annexed to the inhabited world. Here is our author's history of the young settlement :—

" Half a dozen hardy adventurers, who had woed fortune in every clime, and still without success, met together about the year 1829, at the Sandwich Islands, when they heard the Bonin Isles were a paradise, not only of the mighty Pacific, but of the whole world. Its waters were represented, truly, to

abound in fish and turtle, and its wilds in game; its shores with safe harbours, its mountainous surface in beautiful valleys, and its soil was capable of producing everything without cultivation or toil. The Bonin Islands offered them, then, a place where they might retreat from all the cares and vexations of the world, and for the future be free from all anxiety. They flattered themselves, that the soil would produce so abundantly, that they would be soon enabled to supply vessels employed in whale fishing with fresh fruits and vegetables, which, in a short time, would result in competency and even fortune to themselves, when they might return again to the society of the world.

" In this mind, Mathew Mazzara, a Genoese, Alden B. Chapin, Nathaniel Savary, of Massachusetts, Richard Millechamp, of England, and Charles Johnson, of Denmark, set sail from the Sandwich Islands, accompanied by several of the natives, male and female, who served them as servants and wives. In June, 1830, they arrived at the haven of their hopes, and before reaching the land, they found they had been misled, but it was too late to retreat. They landed, and began the settlement of that island of the group, called by Captain Beechey, Peel's Island. **

" However bright the picture to a sea-weary voyager, or however fit for the pencil, Mazzara and his followers saw nothing in the deep ravines, and fan-leaved palm, and cabbage-tree, to invite them to establish their home upon this uninhabited island. But it was too late to turn back. Though disappointed to find there were no plains of any extent, and that the small basins of level land among the hills were covered by a close jungle, they set to work, and now show, with no little satisfaction, the result of their tedious and painful toil. The same industrious perseverance in the 'far west' would have made them comparatively rich men; but here, their snugly-thatched cabins are valueless, in the event of their leaving the island, which is not improbable, and then their six years' labour is thrown away. Nor have they been free from those difficulties from which they fled. They found here, as everywhere else, that man is doomed to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. Until their first harvest, their food consisted almost entirely of turtle and the pith of the cabbage-tree, which no one eats except from necessity. Instead of a mild and benignant clime, every year has brought typhoons and earthquakes, and the numerous uprooted trees bear testimony of the violence of these storms. Indeed, they have never been able to obtain seeds. In fact, for the reason that, about the period of their maturity, the plant is destroyed, or torn away by a typhoon. Neither the phases of the weather, nor the prevalence of the wind, have been regular in their succession any two years."

The morality of this little community is supposed to be at a low grade. Disorderly characters, put ashore on these islands from whalers, have frequently endangered the peace, while they helped to corrupt the morals of the original settlers. The women on the island, nineteen in number, all natives of the Sandwich Islands, have not proved so instrumental as the sex ought to be in maintaining concord, and promoting refinement of manners. As a counterpart to this picture of civilized men relapsing into savage life, we have that of the Sandwich Islands emerging from barbarism and idolatry into civilization. A number of questions, connected with the religious and social improvement of the islanders, are discussed at some length by our author; but, as he had but little opportunity for personal observation, and is therefore obliged to rest his arguments on statements made by interested parties, we cannot repose much confidence in his conclusions. Passing over what is disputable, therefore, we shall briefly mention, in proof of the advancing civilization of the Sandwich Islands, that they have at present, in the various language, a newspaper and a magazine—the latter conducted by the missionaries; and we shall now conclude, with Dr. Ruschenberger's remarks on their commercial importance :—

" Their position is very favourable for trade. Lying in the route between the western coasts of

America and China, they have become an entrepot for merchant vessels and the fur traders of the north-west coast of America, as well as a place of refreshment for the great American whale fleet of the Pacific. When the laws shall be so modified as to encourage labour, and the soil shall be put under cultivation, large crops of sugar, cotton, coffee, tobacco, and silk, will form the staples of a valuable commerce.

" It is difficult to estimate the value of the present trade of the Islands. The capital constantly changing hands may be annually 300,000 dollars, and always at an advance of from 100 to 200 per cent. Bills of exchange, either on England or the United States, are at a discount of from 15 to 20 per cent. The value of real estate owned at Honolulu by the Americans and English is estimated at 100,000 dollars; and the whole amount of property of every description, exclusive of shipping, thus owned, is not less than half a million of dollars, of which four-fifths are American. Nearly 2000 tons of shipping are owned by the foreign residents of Oahu, said to be worth 90,000 dollars."

List of New Books.—The Life and Letters of Willoughby, edited by His Sons, 5 vols. post 8vo. 45s. cl.—A Word to Parents, Nurses, and Teachers, on the Rearing and Management of Children, by Esther Copley, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—Scriptural Piety, by the Rev. C. A. Thorow, 18mo. 2s. hfbd.—Williamson's Missionary Enterprises in the South Seas, 8vo. 4th edit. 12s. cl.—Iron's Parochial Lectures on the Apostolical Succession, 2nd series, 8vo. 4s. 6d. bds.—Bannerman's Practice of Early Christians Considered, post 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.—Ellison's Prison Scenes, post 8vo. 10s. cl.—Bennett's Sermons, Vol. I., 12mo. 6s. 6d. bds.—The State of Popery and Jesuitism in England, by Thomas Lathbury, 12mo. 6s. cl.—The Practical Works of Jeremy Taylor, 8 vols. post 8vo. 45s. cl.—The Missionary's Farewell, by the Rev. J. Williams, 18mo. 2s. cl.—Joseph; a Model for the Young, by E. Leighton, 18mo. 3s. cl.—Baxter's Saint's Rest, by the Rev. W. Brown, 2 vols. 12mo. 10s. cl.—The Young Ladies' Book of Botany, 18mo. 7s. 6d. cl. 8s. 6d. silk.—Finden's Portraits of the Female Aristocracy, Part 1, fol. 12s. 2d.—Art and Artists in England, by G. F. Waagen, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. bds.—Beaumont's Experiments on Digestion, with Notes, &c., by Andrew Combe, roy. 12mo. 7s. bds.—Bentham's Works, edited by Dr. Bowring, Part 3, roy. 8vo. 2s. cl.—A Plain Digest of the Law of Wills, 12mo. 2s. 6d. bds.—Maurnder's Biographical Treasury, fc. 8s. 6d. cl.—The Fanqui in China, by C. T. Downing, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. bds.—Recollections of Caulaincourt, Duke of Vicenza, 3 vols. post 8vo. 10s. bds.—Southey's Poetical Works, Vol. VII., fc. 5s. cl.—Wray's Sermons on the Character of Christ, 8vo. 10s. 6d. bds.—Time, and the End of Time, by the Rev. John Fox, 18mo. 2s. cl.—Six Years in Biscay, by John F. Bacon, 8vo. 14s. cl.—Dickson on Breeding and Rearing Poultry, 12mo. 2s. 6d.—The Floral Cabinet, by Knowles and Westmacott, 4to. 36s. hfbd.—The Book of Quadrupeds, sq. 4s. 6d. bd.—The Smuggler's Children, by L. H. Bagden, sq. 1s. 6d. bds.—The Juvenile Artist, sq. 1s. 6d. bds.—Inglis's Channel Islands, 4th edit. post 8vo. 12s. cl.—Chamber's Cookery and Domestic Economy, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—Wall's Practical Logic, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—Spirit of Chambers' Journal, Vol. V., 12mo. 4s. cl.—Tannahill's Poems, 12mo. 5s. cl.—Walter Devereux, a Domestic Tale, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. bds.—Diary of the Times of George the Fourth, new edit. 2 vols. post 8vo. 10s. bds.—Hedley's German Dialogist, eq. 3s. 6d.—Thiemers' German and English, and German Dictionary, 32mo. 4s. cl.—Gems of Genius, or Words of the Wise, by A. Steinmetz, 18mo. 5s. cl.—Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia, Vol. CII., (James's) Foreign Statesmen, Vol. V., 6s. cl.—Hunter's Translation of Azara's Quadrupeds of Paraguay, 8vo. 10s. 6d. bds.—Caristio on the Preservation of Health, 8vo. 5s. cl.—Foster's Rudiments of the Latin Language, 12mo. 2s. 6d. sheep.—Foster's Rudiments of the Greek Language, 12mo. 4s. bd.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We wish to direct especial attention to a most interesting and valuable report made by Professor Everitt to the Westminster Medical Society at its last meeting, on Messrs. Harper and Joyce's Stove, or the Jerusalem Coffee House Stove, as first called (from the place where it was exhibited); and to the nature of the "prepared fuel," and the gases evolved during combustion; and to the Report made by the celebrated chemist Gay-Lussac to the Paris Academy of Sciences on the same subject, which we have appended to it. The subject is one of great importance, as will be manifest enough on reference to the results of the several experiments. On the subject of economy Mr. Everitt did not offer an opinion, but M. Gay-Lussac observed that the only real source of economy was in retaining in the apartment the whole product of combustion; and he added, that "a stove, ventilated by air brought from the exterior, might be made to give out nine-tenths of the heat produced by the combustion of the fuel, without

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vitiating the air of the apartment, or giving out any unpleasant smell; and that its use would be safer, and nearly as economical as that of the new process." This we consider as a brief but perfect description of Dr. Arnott's stove.

Mr. Serjeant Talfourd's Copyright Bill has been read a second time, and ordered to be committed. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the merits of the measure, there can be none as to its importance: but it is not a party question; few honourable members are directly interested in it, few contemporaries are sufficiently enlightened to see and feel how it can, and must, affect the general welfare; so that there was neither excitement within the House, nor pressure from without; and lo, the fact was proved by a division—only 73, out of 658 members, thought it worth while to attend on the occasion!

A plan has been lately submitted to us for the establishment of a Society, the object of which is to effect exchanges between the several European governments, of the numberless duplicates existing in the various national and public libraries and museums—and the scheme has been strongly recommended to our attention by influential persons fully competent to form an opinion of its merits, and to aid in carrying the plan into execution. The prosector, M. Vatternau, better known to the English public as M. Alexandre, is now in England for the purpose of obtaining the sanction and support of our government. It appears that M. Vatternau has for several years directed his attention to this subject, and has submitted his project to the Emperor of Russia, the late Emperor of Austria, and many other of the crowned heads of Europe, who have not only approved of it, but consented to support it. Therefore, should he now succeed in obtaining the sanction of the British government, he proposes forthwith to take active measures for the formation of the Society. Though perfectly aware that duplicates existed in all the public collections throughout Europe, we had no idea of the extent until we read the petition of M. Vatternau presented to the Chamber of Deputies—and perhaps the best informed of our readers will be surprised to learn, that in the single library of Munich there are no less than 200,000!—in that of Jena, 12,000—in Petersburg, 54,000—in Vienna, 30,000—and further, that the Entomological department is encumbered with 25,000 duplicates. The libraries of even the small towns would benefit, says M. Vatternau, to a extent scarcely credible. Thus the library at Rhenes contains 98 duplicates; that at Colmar 100; at Amiens 119; at Arras 136; at Rouen 217; at Douai 250; and that at Metz more than 500. The value and use of these duplicates is totally lost to all the world, even to the several libraries which possess them—their value in exchange, however, is obvious. What a splendid addition might be made to the library of the Arsenal at Paris, which now contains three copies of the Bible printed by Guttenberg, in exchange for two of them,—each being valued at 20,000 francs. The details of the plan for effecting these exchanges do not appear to be finally decided on; but the outline is briefly this: a Society to be established at Paris, or in any other central situation, with a limited capital, and under the direction of certain competent persons, which shall receive from the officers in charge of the several libraries and cabinets of Europe, a list of such duplicates as they are willing to exchange or part with. To simplify our statement, we will consider the operation with exclusive reference to the collections of medals. The officers of the respective governments, in charge of the several collections of medals, would officially furnish to the Central Society a list of duplicates, with the prices affixed to each. These lists would be printed monthly, and transmitted to the several governments; and each government would be required, within a given time, to return a list of such medals as they would desire to take from the other government collections; should more than one government fix on the same medals, the fact might be notified to each, and competition allowed, but confined exclusively to the original bidders, and the medal become the property of the highest bidder, the amount going to the credit of the seller. It would, in this way, frequently occur, that the creditor and debtor account of any particular country would,

on the whole exchange, be nearly balanced; and the respective balances might be remitted directly, or carried to the credit of the several governments by the Society, until the next exchanges, in which case the whole money transactions would be limited to the paying to the general agency a fixed per-cent to cover expenses, &c., the selected coins being transmitted directly through the embassies from the one government to the other. This is not, we believe, the exact scheme submitted by M. Vatternau, but it appears to us the better, or suggestive of a better; and it is, of course, conformable to the broad outline, which appears to us one of the most sensible and beneficial projects which has been brought forward in this projecting age, and worthy the considerable attention of the government and the country. Of course, after the several governments have made their selection, there would be no objection to allow private collectors to come in and perfect their cabinets; indeed, such a Society might be made extensively beneficial, although, for simplicity, we have confined our views to the narrowest limits.

Of the *Society for the Encouragement of British Art*, and of the *Art-Union*, we have often spoken: both hold their ground for another season, and, therefore, we notify the fact to our readers, that such of them as desire to take their chance for a prize, may forthwith pay their subscriptions. We conclude that it is impossible to make these Societies known in this overgrown city,—at least, without such an outlay in advertisements, as would be ruinous in their present infant state; for how otherwise can we account for the fact, that the two together have not received one-third so much patronage as a like society established at Edinburgh? For reasons heretofore assigned, (No. 497), we prefer the *Society for the Encouragement of British Art*; but the *Art-Union* is the more prosperous, and the members have lately come to the tempting resolution of setting aside a certain sum yearly, when their funds admit of it, for the purpose of engraving some work of art, of which each subscriber is to receive a copy, in addition to his chance of a valuable picture.

Our advertising columns will have informed our readers that some fine collections of pictures are about to be submitted to the chances of an auction. Among the most celebrated and valuable, is that of Lord Northwick; and certainly not among the least interesting to Englishmen, is the beautiful collection of drawings executed for Mr. Lodge's National Portrait Gallery. It is fairly observed in the Notice prefixed to the catalogue of the latter, that such a collection could not have been formed by any other combination of circumstances than those under which this has been brought together, depending, as it did, entirely upon the patronage and favour of the nobility, in granting the loan of their family and historical portraits for a great national object.

There is an Exhibition now open in Grosvenor Street, which, had it been shown during the first popularity of the Scott romances, would have drawn visitors by the thousand. We allude to the *Gothic Armoury*—a fine collection of coats of mail, shields, morions, fire-arms of a more recent date, horse-acoutrements, and the other etcetera which made up

The pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war, in the days when war was picturesque. One or two of the specimens of damasked armour struck us as very choice; though we cannot pretend to any intimate acquaintance with such matters. The general arrangement of the room, too, is tasteful and imposing; and the whole is well worth a visit. The price of admission, however, which is half-a-crown, has been fixed unwise high.

Among the announced musical arrivals, are the names of Pasta and Cinti Damoreau; how the latter lady is to be spared from the *Opéra Comique* we cannot clearly divine. Dohler, too, the pianist, whose name has been mentioned in some of the Parisian journals, with, not after Thalberg's—is also shortly expected.

We notice with regret, by late American papers, the decease of Dr. Bowditch; a man of distinguished reputation in his peculiar department, and one of the most practically useful men of the age. His profound astronomical science has been well proved in his translation of that great work of Laplace, the *Mécanique Céleste*, of which at the period of its publi-

cation the *Edinburgh Review* remarked that there were not twelve men in Europe who could read it. Dr. Bowditch did not, we hear, live to finish his work, and it is a matter of doubt whether it will ever be completed. He was more popularly known by his 'Practical Navigator,' which goes, both in American and British craft, over every sea of the globe, and is probably the best work of the sort ever published. It is remarkable that the learned Doctor was essentially, like his eminent fellow-citizen Franklin, a self-taught man—he was at one time the master of a merchant vessel, if not a common sailor. At his decease, he was President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an honorary member of learned societies in almost every country of Europe.

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the SOCIETY OF ARTISTS IN THE COVENT GARDEN, at their Galleries, PALL MALL EAST, WILL OPEN ON MONDAY, APRIL 30. Open each day from 9 till dusk.—Admission, 1*l.* Catalogue, 6*d.* R. HILLS, Sec.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.
The EXHIBITION of the SOCIETY of BRITISH ARTISTS, SUFFOLK-STREET, PALL MALL EAST, is NOW OPEN from Nine in the Morning till Dusk.—Admission, 1*l.* R. E. DAWE, Sec.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.

The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION AND SALE of the WORKS OF BRITISH ARTISTS, is OPEN DAILY, from Ten in the Morning till Five in the Evening.—Admission, 1*l.*; Catalogue, 1*l.* WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

LAWRENCE GALLERY.

MESSRS. WOODBURN very respectfully announce that AN EXHIBITION of PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, &c., &c., is OPEN DAILY until the 20th of April. Several of these Drawings have not been exhibited before. A price is affixed to each Drawing.—Admission, 1*l.*

Specimens of a Work in progress, from RAFFAELLE, dedicated by permission to Her Majesty, will be Open for Inspection and Subscription.

JUST OPENED, DIORAMA, BEGENT'S PARK.
NEW EXHIBITION, representing TIVOLI, with a view of the Cascades; and the Interior of the BASILICA OF ST. PAUL, before and after its destruction by fire.—Both Pictures are painted by Le Chevalier Bouton.—Open from 10 till 5 o'clock.

"The Diorama has opened one of its new marvels to the public."

"The minute care with which the whole work has been finished is astonishing."—*Times.*

"The illusion is complete."—*Morning Post.*

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

W. R. Hamilton, Esq. President, in the chair.—Read, the Narrative of the Arctic Discovery Expedition, under Messrs. Dease and Simpson. Communicated by J. H. Pelly, Esq., Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company.

As a full abstract of this narrative has already appeared in our column [Athenæum No. 547], we need only add some general remarks, which naturally close the account.

"That the Polar sea," say Messrs. Dease and Simpson, "is clear and navigable for ships during the summer months, the long rolling swell we encountered on our return, and the view obtained from the mountains, furnish tolerable proof; we likewise saw some whales on our return."

"The prevalence of east and north-east winds during the early part of the summer is a remarkable fact. We were, indeed, favoured by a westerly wind for five days on our return, but this was almost the only exception; at a more advanced period of the season, however, the winds blow more from the west and north-west.

"It is now certain that from Kotzobœuf's Sound to Cape Parry, there is not a harbour into which a ship can safely enter, but it must be a very unpropitious season that would not admit of achieving that portion of the arctic navigation, and another year might certainly suffice for the remainder, whether the voyage were commenced from Barrow's or from Behring's Straits. On this subject, however, we shall be better able to offer an opinion, if successful in our next summer's operations."

"The natural history of the coast, from Return Reef to Point Barrow, is meagre in the extreme. In the botanical kingdom, scarcely a flower or moss was obtained in addition to the collection made on other parts of the coast."

"In zoology—reindeer, arctic foxes, one or two lemmings, seals, white owls, snow-buntings, grouse, and various well-known species of water-fowl, were the only objects met with; while in the mineralogical department, there was not a rock *in situ*, or boulder-stone found along an extent of 200 miles of coast."

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2ndly. A letter was read from Dr. Richardson, dated Haslar, April 22.

"My dear Sir,—Had the interesting account of Messrs. Dease and Simpson's completion of the survey of the American coast west of the Mackenzie, published in the newspapers, reached me earlier than to-day, I would have made arrangements for coming up to your meeting on Monday, to have expressed my sense of the ability and courage with which the service has been performed. It is peculiarly gratifying to me that the fitness of the plan of survey which I proposed some years ago in a letter published in the *Geographical Journal*, has been thus practically shown, and still more so, that Mr. Dease, (associated with us in Sir John Franklin's expedition, and to whose friendly attentions we owed so much,) should be one of the persons to anticipate the attempt of any foreign power to wrest from England the honour of the complete discovery of the Arctic coast of America. The ease with which the Esquimaux were conciliated by mild and firm treatment, and the safety with which a very small party has visited several of their encampments, does away with the objection urged by some people against my plan, of its being too hazardous to venture on the coast with so small a party. If Sir John Franklin, when surprised and almost overpowered by the numerous hordes of Esquimaux of Tent Island, had not humanely forbore shedding blood, the intercourse between Mr. Dease's party and the inhabitants of the coast would have been much less friendly. Now the pacific visits of two parties of white men, and the social disposition of the Esquimaux will greatly facilitate the approaches of future visitors. The party would spend the past winter on Dease's River, (a name of a more happy omen than I anticipated when I gave that appellation to the principal feeding stream of Great Bear Lake,) and their boats would most likely be conveyed across to the Coppermine in the autumn by open water, so as to obviate the necessity of dragging them on the snow this spring. The winter station chosen is an excellent one for procuring a supply of musk-ox meat and reindeer venison, and it also yields fish, so that no fears need be excited about the support of a party not exceeding twenty. Mr. Dease is intimately acquainted with the Hare Indians who hunt in that quarter, and will have no difficulty in obtaining much aid from that tribe in the transporting of his stores. By taking advantage of the floods occurring in the Coppermine towards the end of June, the boats will be enabled to reach the mouth of the river in two days, or three at farthest, after embarking on it, and the party will most probably have to remain there for about a fortnight before the sea ice breaks up, which is usually near the 10th or 12th of July. Three days of a fair wind and a clear sea will take them to Point Turnagain, and the short distance from thence to Ross's farthest, cannot occupy a great part of the remaining open season. Whether the survey can be carried to Back's River in one summer depends entirely upon the configuration of the land, of which we are ignorant. If (Boothia, or) North Somerset be a part of the main, the summer is obviously too short for compassing it by water, though Mr. Simpson, by another well-judged pedestrian excursion, may connect his discoveries with Back's. No expedition fitted out in England, whatever the talents of the officers heading it might be, could promise greater results than the one now on foot. To Mr. Dease's thorough acquaintance with the character of the natives, and his abilities in provisioning a party from the resources of the country, Sir John Franklin has already borne honourable testimony, and no one can read the brief and modest account of the important results of the first year's exertions, without coming to the conclusion that Mr. Simpson is eminently gifted with the hardy spirit of enterprise, and promptness in action, necessary to form a successful traveller in a country where the transitory nature of the fine season renders delay for deliberation, or the slightest dilatoriness, destructive to the enterprise. Mr. Simpson reminds me of Sir Alexander M'Kenzie, who, by a coincidence not altogether accidental, but arising from the fitness of the place, also started from Fort Chipewyan, when he gave his name to a river, perhaps the noblest that flows in her Majesty's dominions. I could not help writing a few lines to you, to say that though I could not evince my interest in an expe-

dition commenced under such favourable auspices, by being personally present at your next meeting, when, I take it for granted, the communication from the Hudson's Bay Company will be read, yet, that like an old coachman, I still delight in the crack of the whip. The public spirit of the Hudson's Bay Company deserves the highest commendations, and they have evinced singular judgment in taking up the business just where government had dropped it. Their conduct is the more creditable as it is disinterested, the coast line yielding no furs but white fox skins, which will not pay for their transport.

Capt. Washington, R.N. JOHN RICHARDSON.

A note from Capt. Back was also read, expressing his regret that illness prevented his having the pleasure of personally bearing his testimony to the ability and courage with which the service had been executed.

Sir JOHN BARROW said, that it was now twenty years since he had first given an opinion on the subject of Arctic discovery, and the impression then made on his mind by reading all the older voyages, of the existence of an open navigable sea, unencumbered by ice, except occasionally, when near islands or the shore, had been confirmed by the accounts of Parry, Franklin, and Ross, and now Messrs. Dease and Simpson had spoken clearly to the same point. Indeed, we now know that the northern coasts of America and of Asia extend only to about the 70th parallel of latitude, and thus there was reason to believe in the existence of a polar basin of 40 degrees, or 2400 miles, in diameter, and could it be supposed that in such an extent there was not an open sea? In conclusion, he sincerely congratulated the Governor and gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company on their public spirit in thus prosecuting research, on the judgment and ability manifested in their instructions, and on the courage and perseverance of their servants, who had so successfully carried their orders into execution.

The PRESIDENT said it would be needless in him to add anything to what had been already heard from others much more familiar with the subject of Arctic navigation than himself; but it afforded him much gratification to propose a special vote of thanks to the Governors of the Hudson's Bay Company, and to the enterprising gentlemen Messrs. Dease and Simpson; which was carried by acclamation.

Governor PELLY, in returning thanks for the honour conferred on him, stated that he should always have much pleasure in forwarding the interests of geography throughout the territories under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company; but it was to the excellent instructions which were drawn up by his worthy friend the resident governor, Mr. Simpson, then present, that the success of the late expedition was mainly due.

It was announced from the chair that a special meeting of the Society would be held on Monday, May the 14th, to present the royal premium, given by her gracious Majesty for "the promotion of geographical science and discovery," which had that day been awarded to Colonel Chesney, R.A., as leader of the Euphrates expedition.

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—April 21.—There was an unusually full attendance of members, to hear the promised opinions, and witness the experiments on Harper and Joyce's newly invented stove, by Professor Everitt.

The Professor began by observing, that he had been frequently applied to by his medical colleagues and pupils, for his opinion, as a chemist, on the nature of the combustible used in Harper and Joyce's new patent heating-boxes, called by them "prepared fuel," but more particularly for some positive information as to the nature of the products of the combustion, all of which, from the construction of the boxes, diffuse themselves in the air of the rooms where they are employed. This had induced him thoroughly to investigate experimentally all the points bearing on the subject; and the results appearing to him to be highly interesting and important to the profession generally, he had determined to bring the subject under the consideration of the Society. He begged, at the outset, that it might be distinctly understood that the above were the only motives which actuated him; he should therefore confine himself as closely as possible to facts capable of de-

demonstration. On many points where mere matter of opinion might be offered, he should be very circumspect, and quite silent where such opinions might possibly affect the pecuniary interests of any party. Before proceeding to the special object of the lecture, Mr. Everitt gave a slight sketch of the chemical nature of those substances which were to be brought under the consideration of the meeting, in order that all present might be able to appreciate the value of his demonstrations, and see the legitimacy of his deductions. He accordingly detailed, and illustrated by experiment, the leading properties of carbon, charcoal, and the two compounds of carbon and oxygen, viz. carbonic oxide, and carbonic acid gas,—for which we refer to any of the popular systematic works on chemistry. After which, the special subject in view was considered under the following heads: 1st. The Fuel; 2nd. The Mechanical Construction of the Machines, and the mode of putting them in action and using them; 3rd. The nature of the products of Combustion; 4th. General deductions from all the facts connected with the case.

Of the Fuel called by the patentees "prepared fuel," he observed, that (a.) In appearance it resembled common charcoal.—(b.) On being heated in a nearly-closed vessel, it lost 8 per cent., which being collected, was found to be mostly water.—(c.) On 100 parts being burnt in an open platinum vessel, it left of ab. 2.5 parts, resembling the ash of common charcoal.—(d.) On being boiled with distilled water, and the solution filtered and evaporated to dryness, this left a small quantity of alkaline carbonate.—(e.) A portion being made quite dry, and subjected to analysis in the apparatus of Liebig, for determining the quantity of carbon in organic products, was found to contain from 97 to 98 per cent. of pure carbon.—(f.) On a small piece being burnt in oxygen gas, and the product tested, it was found to have become carbonic acid gas.

Hence it appeared to be only well-burnt wood charcoal, with perhaps a little additional alkaline carbonate, not containing, as common charcoal often does, portions of wood half charred, which, when the charcoal is lighted, give off some smoke, and certain vapours irritating to the eyes and nose;—but as respects the quantity of carbonic acid and heat produced during the burning of a given weight of this, and the same weight of well prepared charcoal, there is no appreciable difference.

The Boxes or Machines consist, essentially, of a cylinder, sometimes iron, sometimes copper, more or less elongated, standing on feet, having an inverted, hollow, truncated, brass cone, fastened into the bottom. The broad part of the cone being upwards, and horizontal, is not pierced with holes; but that part which goes downwards and inwards is perforated by numerous small apertures, by which the external air enters, and keeps up the combustion. The cylinder, at the top, is provided with a close-fitting lid, or cover, having, in its centre, an adjustable opening, which can be left entirely open, partially, or quite closed; by which means the exit of the air is regulated—and hence the rate of combustion. This cylinder is sometimes surrounded by a second, placed externally, and at some distance, leaving a considerable space between, by which direct contact of external objects with the hotter internal cylinder is prevented, and accidents avoided. To put it in action, a small quantity of the fuel is made incandescent in a sort of grating pan, which accompanies the machines. This fuel being placed in the inside, at the bottom of the cylinder, around the hollow cone, the rest of the cylinder is filled up with cold fuel; the cover put in its place, and the vent left quite open till the combustion is fairly established, when it may be more or less closed at pleasure. By this contrivance, the combustion of the fuel goes on slowly all around the brass cone at the bottom; and, as this is consumed, the upper portion gradually falls to occupy its place—hence requiring feeding only at long intervals, depending on the height of the cylinder, and rate of combustion. The air passes through the mass of charcoal so gradually, that it does not carry any dust with it; and, by the confluence of the cone, no ash falls out below, nor do the air-holes ever become stopped up.

The Products of Combustion.—When the stove is first set in action, the hot air which arises from the upper aperture brings with it all the hydroscopic

moisture of become tolerably conveniently are provided which, being cylinders, certain quantities and mixes w to collect s upper aperture method was about twelve master, open ed to the placed vertically constantly f gas received ground flat, which would slide the glass tube; upon the tube the hot air ed to remain in the hot, and gradually di with the glass upwards; a leaves the n as complete external air ed, or carried through w were subjected lighted tape distinguished a and half p two-thirds being added dictated the —(c.) On mercury being in a crucible pot, that the q is much aspheric air a series of nitro- unity with acidic, can be fo graduated melted in w there go—hence confirms the —(e.) An carbonic acid little pure, quaternary th was seen, occasion a fu was presen city of the and one in of the st died in le observes passes thr oxygen or through the combustion great heat inches in prepared during the burn out lasting 20 per cent. these 37, carbon, o 40,253 in

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moisture of the charcoal; but so soon as this has become tolerably hot, the air comes out hot, and inconveniently dry. To avoid this, some of the boxes are provided with a small vessel for holding water, which, being placed on the top of the internal cylinder, is gently heated, and, from a small pipe, a certain quantity of aqueous vapour constantly rises and mixes with the dry air passing by it. In order to collect specimens of the air issuing from this upper aperture for examination, the following simple method was adopted:—A small tube was provided, about twelve inches long, and half an inch in diameter, open at both ends, one of which was nicely fitted to the aperture of the vent-hole, the tube being placed vertically, by which a stream of the air was constantly flowing from the upper end. Then any gas receiver, glass tube, or bell jar, having its lips ground flat, and provided with a piece of plate glass, which would close it air-tight, may be filled thus:—slide the glass plate just enough on one side to admit the tube; the receiver is now to be brought down upon the tube, so that the upper aperture delivers the hot air quite at the top and inside; all is allowed to remain thus for some minutes, during which the hot, and hence lighter air, flowing from the tube, gradually displaces the cold air of the receiver. This, with the glass plate, are now to be carried slowly upwards; and, just as the upper end of the tube leaves the receiver, the glass plate is to be slid so as completely to cut off all communication with the external air. The specimen of air can then be tested, or carried to the mercurial or aqueous pneumatic trough for examination. Specimens thus collected were subjected to the following trials:—(a.) A lighted taper, on being introduced, was instantly extinguished: the same with a mixture of half this and half pure air, the same with one-third this and two-thirds pure air.—(b.) On lime and baryta water being added and agitated, their becoming turbid indicated the presence of plenty of carbonic acid gas.—(c.) On five measures in a graduated tube over mercury being agitated with a little strong solution of caustic potassa, one measure was absorbed, indicating that the quantity of carbonic acid was one-fifth, or as much as could possibly be present; for, as atmospheric air contains, in round numbers, four measures of nitrogen to one of oxygen, and as oxygen, in unity with carbon, produces its own volume of carbonic acid, no more than one-fifth of carbonic acid can be formed.—(d.) Another fixed quantity in a graduated tube had a little piece of phosphorus melted in it. This did not become luminous, nor was there the least diminution of the volume of the gas—hence no free oxygen was left in the air. This confirms the accuracy of the preceding experiment.—(e.) Another portion, after being deprived of its carbonic acid by caustic potassa, was mixed with a little pure oxygen, and electric sparks passed frequently through the mixture. No change in bulk was seen, nor did an addition of caustic potassa occasion a further absorption—hence no carbonic oxide was present.—(f.) A bird, introduced into a quantity of the stove air, died in less than half a minute; and one introduced into a mixture of 60 cubic inches of the stove air, and 60 of pure atmospheric air, died in less than three minutes. Hence, Mr. Everitt observes, we may conclude, that *all* the air which passes through these boxes is entirely deprived of its oxygen or vital part, this being replaced by a similar bulk of carbonic acid gas.

Now as to the quantity produced in a given time: this of course must depend on the rate of combustion; it is to be remarked, that it does not at all depend on the size of the box, but on the size of the lower entrance aperture of the cone, and on the upper or exit aperture, by which the quantity of air passing through the box is regulated, and hence the rate of combustion. The one produced, being of no very great heating power, was 19 inches high, and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter; and could contain 37,480 grains of prepared fuel: if the upper part were left quite open during the whole duration of combustion, it would burn out in about 18 hours; but as it is rated as lasting 20 hours, it is better to take this time as the element of any calculations. Now allowing 10.5 per cent. for moisture and ash, as above determined, these 37,480 grains of fuel contain 33,544 of pure carbon, consumed in 20 hours; or, adding 1.5th, 34,053 in 24 hours: and further, every 6 grains of

carbon, in passing to carbonic acid gas, during combustion, unite with 16 grains of oxygen, producing 22 grains of this; hence 6 : 22 : 40,253 to 147,594 grains of carbonic acid; and as 100 cubic inches of carbonic acid weigh 47 $\frac{1}{4}$ grains, 47.25 : 100 : 147,594 : 312,368 cubic inches in 24 hours, or 180 $\frac{8}{10}$ cubic feet. It will, doubtless, be sought to estimate the per centage of this gas, which will be found in any apartment of given dimensions after a certain number of hours burning of a stove of the above size; one of the elements of such a calculation—viz. ventilation, is, however, so variable, that it is impossible to make any approximate, much less serviceable estimate on this point. But the following comparison may be useful for medical men, and others, to find an opinion upon:—Physiologists have determined that a healthy man produces, by respiration, in 24 hours, 38,304 cubic inches of carbonic acid (Day) ; 38,232 (Allen and Pepys); the mean of which is 38,267 cubic inches. Hence 31.2368 : 38,267, the quantity produced by the close stove in 24 hours, gives 8.15; or if we put this stove into a small bed-room or other apartment, we are placed, as it respects the production of carbonic acid gas, exactly as if we had 8 full-grown individuals in the same room. Or, in order to find this relation for any other box of any size, find the number of ounces of fuel it consumes in the 24 hours, deduct 10.5 per cent for moisture and ash, the rest represents the *pure carbon* consumed. This divided by 10, (10 ounces of carbon being about the estimated quantity an adult gives off from his lungs in 24 hours,) the quotient will be the number of adults required to produce, in equal times, the same quantity of carbonic acid as the stove. Mr. Everitt then stated that he purposely avoided collecting himself the records of experiments and observations on the injurious effects of this gas, as it might be feared he had been biased one way or other, and would therefore content himself with reading a concise summary of what has been written on the subject in Dr. Christie's celebrated work on poisons, pages 744 to 754 inclusive, of the last edition. As general results from what precedes, Mr. Everitt deduced the following conclusions:—

1st. The fuel, called "prepared fuel," used in these boxes, differs from common charcoal in its being perfectly charred, or having no portions of wood left half-decomposed; that it differs in no essential from well-burnt wood charcoal.

2nd. That all the air which passes through these boxes, when fairly in combustion, is entirely deprived of its oxygen, this being replaced by a like bulk of carbonic acid gas.

3rd. That a stove or box 19 inches high, and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ diameter, consumes about 40,253 grains (5 $\frac{7}{10}$ lb.) of pure carbon in 24 hours, and generates 180 $\frac{8}{10}$ cubic feet of carbonic acid gas in that time.

4th. That this is as much, hour by hour, as is produced by eight adults by respiration.

5th. That what is implied by the following quotation from the printed circulars of the patentee—*"To guard against accidents from the neglect or mistake of servants using common charcoal, a pipe will be attached to the apparatus for bed-rooms,"* viz. that if *their prepared fuel* be used no deleterious gas or vapour is produced, is incorrect.

6th. That if only a part of what is recorded relative to the noxious action of carbonic acid gas on animals be true (See Christie's, pp. 744 to 754), then in no case ought these boxes to be used for heating dwelling rooms, unless provision be made for carrying off the products of combustion.

7th. That by the combustion of any given weight of charcoal, the same quantity of heat is generated as by the combustion of the same weight of prepared fuel.

8th. That having the means to regulate the entrance of air to keep up combustion into a furnace where charcoal is burning, will effect the same end as having the means of regulating the exit after combustion.

Mr. Everitt in conclusion said, that as soon as Mr. Harper had become acquainted with the positive results arrived at by this investigation, he expressed his determination to attach, to all boxes which he should in future sell, contrivances for carrying out of

the apartment all the products of combustion, and Mr. Everitt produced a box where this was already effected. He further begged to say, that Mr. Harper expressed his readiness to adopt any suggestion which might tend to avoid the slightest injurious effects arising from the application of the invention.

To this very able report, by Professor Everitt, we shall add an abstract of the report made on the same subject, by M. Gay-Lussac to the French Academy.

Much has been said of the wonderful nature of this process; 'that with an expense of fifty or sixty centimes (5d. or 6d.) in properly prepared charcoal, a vast apartment may be maintained at an agreeable temperature for twenty-four hours; and moreover, that the carbonic acid produced by the combustion is not diffused in the apartment, being absorbed by the carbonate of soda with which the charcoal is impregnated, the danger of suffocation being therefore no longer to be dreaded from this method of heating.' This much-boasted process has appeared to me to be deserving of my examination; and in making the results known, I believe I am doing a service to the public, and performing a duty incumbent on me. The fuel employed is a very light charcoal, impregnated, it is said, with carbonate of soda, to retain the carbonic acid produced in burning. I have found a specimen of this fuel to contain carbonate, not of soda, but of potash, yet in so minute a quantity, that I am certain it does not amount to 1-4000th of the weight of the charcoal; hence it burns with as much facility as the charcoals of other light woods. It is therefore evident that this charcoal must diffuse in the apartment as much carbonic acid during its combustion as an equal weight of any other charcoal; that it must vitiate the air in the same degree, and that the same accidents may be produced by it as in other cases; it is equally evident that it can produce no more heat than the same quantity of ordinary charcoal, as it contains no more combustible matter. Having ascertained that the combustion of this charcoal produces no unpleasant odours, it occurred to me that the small quantity of alkali (which I then supposed had been added to it) might be the cause of the absence of smell. As this would have been a useful discovery, I submitted my conjecture to the proof of experiment. I ascertained that ordinary charcoal contains nearly as much alkali as the new fuel; but in order to make the experiment more conclusive, I wetted some charcoal in a weak solution of carbonate of soda, so that it became more alkaline than the English charcoal. This was dried on a stove, and two furnaces were charged, one with this prepared charcoal, and the other with the common. No appreciable difference was discovered. The experiment was repeated with different proportions of the alkali, but always with the same results. Having satisfied myself that the absence of smell in the English charcoal must arise from its peculiar nature, and having, as I thought, recognized that it was made from fir-wood, I prepared some charcoal from pieces of deal. The result was a cool, very light, and sensibly more alkaline charcoal than the English fuel. When burned in comparison with ordinary charcoal, it gave less smell, and appeared to resemble in all respects the English charcoal, of which, however, I did not possess a sufficient quantity to make exact experiments. The elegant apparatus in which the charcoal is burned, is a true brazier, diffusing all the products of combustion into the apartment where it is placed, and it is from this circumstance that the asserted economy arises. This economy cannot be disputed, but it should not be forgotten that it is gained at the expense of vitiating the air of the apartment, and in compromising the safety of ignorant persons who may inadvertently expose themselves to its effects. My observations lead to the conclusion,—That the fuel is merely a light charcoal, well prepared, but containing no alkali besides that which it naturally possesses.—That this fuel gives no more heat than the ordinary charcoal of wood.—That the mode in which the combustion is conducted, diffusing its whole products, and thereby vitiating the air of the apartment in which it is placed, is the only real source of economy over other processes.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.	
SAT.	Westminster Medical Society
SAT.	Zoological Society, (<i>Anniversary</i>)
SAT.	Horticultural Society (<i>Anniversary</i>). One.
TUES.	Institution of Civil Engineers
TUES.	Linnæan Society
WED.	Society of Arts
WED.	Royal Society
THUR.	Zoological Society, (<i>Gen. Business</i>). Three.
FRI.	Antiquarian Society
FRI.	Botanical Society
FRI.	Royal Institution
	4 p. Eight.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

DRURY LANE.
This Evening, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, THE GIPSY'S
WARNING; and THE MELTONIANS.

COVENT GARDEN.
On Monday, ROMEO AND JULIET; and AMILIE.
TUESDAY, THE LADY OF LYONS; with JOHN OF PARIS;
and THE ORIGINAL.
Wednesday, KING LEAR; and THE HYPOCRITE.

ITALIAN OPERA.—To judge from recent appearances, we shall have the old battle of La Cuzzoni and La Faustina emulated, if not surpassed, by the contestants henceforth to be carried on in Fop's Alley, touching the several merits of La Grisi and La Persiani. Certain it is, however, that this rivalry must produce the excellent consequence of stimulating each lady to constant exertion; the former to keep her crown,—the latter to gain one no less distinguished and precious. We never saw anything more striking than the additional care and energy, and finish of execution, displayed by Madame Grisi, on reappearing this day week in *Desdemona*,—formerly the least successful and least individual of her parts, but now one of her very best. No other living singer could have delivered the great air in the second act, with the same force, and yet remained so free from exaggeration. The last act, too, appeared to have been studied anew by her; and, at all events, was a great advance on any previous performance. Her voice was in excellent order; having (if that were possible) gained fulness, with her figure, since last year. She was most vehemently received; and Lablache yet more warmly. The opera was given just as formerly, with the exception of Grisi's exchange of Mercandante's weaker 'Quando, guerrier mio splendido,' ('Briganti'), by way of *entrata*; and with the additional exception of the failure of effect caused by Signor Tati's incompetence as *Roderigo*, in the finale of the first, and the grand trio of the second act.

The ballet is, as yet, very poor. 'Le Chaléat,' a one-act nothing, produced on Thursday week, has been withdrawn.

ANCIENT CONCERTS.—Thanks to Lord Burghersh, the scheme of the *Third Ancient Concert* was unusually excellent,—comprising selections from the masses and services of Sebastian Bach,—several pieces from 'Alexander's Feast,'—the supplementary tenor song from 'Don Giovanni,' 'Dalla sua pace,'—'Gloria' from Cherubini's mass in *C*, (which is injured in effect by the English words with which it has been mated), his splendid Terzett 'Tremate,'—Purcell's 'Mad Tom' magnificently declaimed by Braham,—'Dove sei' from 'Rodelinda' (better known as 'Holy, holy,') restored to its original key, and sung with true and grand expression by Mrs. Shaw—besides other items no less worthy and classical. In short, the programme could not have been amended, whether as to research among works which have been too little heard, or selection from the pieces which the ancient subscribers love to hear. The director's intentions, however, were most inefficiently seconded by the orchestra and chorus. For a great part of the evening both were out of tune:—in the music of Bach and Cherubini they were at once clumsy and unsteady; while the choruses of Handel were sung with a harsh vulgarity, bred of familiarity, which made us wish the offenders sent to the amateur meetings at Exeter Hall, or more than one provincial choral concert we could name, to take a lesson in delivery. Hence it fell out, that the concert, as a whole, was felt to be heavy and wearisome.

Mrs. H. R. Bishop, in the great *scena* by Jomelli, was singing her best, which is now very well indeed:—this lady seems greatly to have improved in certainty of intonation since last year. We mentioned Mr. Allen, a week or two since, as one of our most pro-

mising tenor singers: his performance, however, of the charming *cantabile* from 'Don Giovanni,' was, at once, so forced and so ineffective, as hardly to justify our praise. He should remember that a voice, naturally deficient in power, will lose the little it possesses, if it be *thrust out*, as was the case with his on Wednesday.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.—Fourth Concert.—The symphony was Beethoven's grand Choral Symphony; the overture, 'Der Freischütz,' (*encore*); the instrumental solos were performed by M. Hausmann (violincello), and M. Heinemeyer (flute). On the whole, this was capital concert. The first act, which was, of course, exclusively devoted to Beethoven's work, (a few years since denounced as impossible and incomprehensible), went very well,—with some exception to the vocal part in the choral finale: the solos in which were sung by Mrs. Bishop, Miss M. B. Hawes, Mr. Hornastle, and Mr. Balfé. As regards the music itself, any attempt at analysis would lead us beyond our prescribed limits of criticism: it is enough to say,—whether as regards its bold, massive, stupendous first movement, or its easy and natural, yet new scherzo, or its andante, in which the theme floats along, *felt* rather than heard, in the midst of constant changes of enrichment and of time,—that every subsequent hearing confirms us in our first assurance, that in recognizing this choral symphony as one of Beethoven's greatest works, we were not bowing down to a name with a vacant and irrational credulity. The finale still contains difficulties: that strange *corale* in the midst of it appears to us something misplaced,—and the instrumental recitatives to touch the verge where originality and oddity meet; but increased experience may show us more clearly the writer's intent in devices, which till that intent be discovered, are, to our apprehensions, strange rather than effective. We have now to speak of the solos in the second act. M. Hausmann is, as yet, an excellent chamber musician, rather than a certain concert player. He was often undecided in his tone,—often unable to do full justice to his own taste, by want of courage, or that practical facility, which should always be rather to spare than to seek, when a player dares the ordeal of appearance in a great orchestra: his concerto, moreover, (his own music), was dull, and too long drawn out. M. Heinemeyer is the neatest and most volatile flute-player we have heard for a long time: wanting breadth, perhaps, in his style; but what can be done with an instrument intrinsically so inexpensive in tone as his? The vocal part of the concert was interesting: comprising a trio from 'Joseph,' in which Herr Kroff and Mr. Bradbury, with chorus, joined Mr. Hornastle; a trio from 'Il Ratto di Proserpina,' so well sung by the last-named gentleman and the two ladies engaged, as to be only not *encored*; and the lovely first scene of 'Guillaume Tell,' in which Mr. Brizzi mis-took the solo. Mr. Loder led, and Mr. Moscheles conducted the Concert.

THE THEATRES.—"What's in a name?" as Juliet very properly inquires. "Nothing," is the answer of the Drury Lane and Covent Garden bills. At the former, the Easter piece called 'The Meltonians' was set down, by all the knowing ones, as a certain failure, from the supposed repulsiveness of the subject for dramatic exhibition; and yet the author has somehow contrived to make it palatable to those who go. Who would have supposed that such a subject could have been so treated, as to carry away the Easter people's money from a melo-drama with the title of 'Sindbad the Sailor'?—a name associated with our fondest nursery recollections. And yet such has proved the case; and poor Sindbad, after a heavy and labouring passage, of a week's duration, has split on the rock of public opinion, and gone down—crew saved, we presume, because *no hands* went with it.—A graceful little piece, called 'A Hasty Conclusion,' which we omitted to notice last week, has been lately introduced to vary the entertainments at the Olympic. Madame Vestris has done well, we think, to give her visitors one little drama of this description in the course of the evening, which interests and amuses them sufficiently, while it gives them an opportunity to rest the muscles called into action by broad laughter, and thus prepares them better for the next exertion. Mrs. Planché is the writer of the new burletta in question.

ADVERTISEMENTS

MEDICAL SCHOOL, KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—The following LECTURES will be delivered during the Summer Session, which will begin on the 1st of May, and close on the 31st July:—BOTANY.—By Professor Don, Libr. L. S., 1st May. FORENSIC MEDICINE, SURGICAL ANATOMY, and PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE OPERATIONS OF SURGERY, &c.—By Professor Partridge, M.R.S., 5th May.

H. J. ROSE, B.D. Principal.

A N ASSOCIATION, meeting once a week for the purpose of Lectures and Discussions on Subjects connected with Science and Literature, propose to add to their numbers a few efficient Members. For further information apply by letter only (post paid) to Mr. Taylor, 1, Pilgrim-street, Ludgate-hill.

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A RT-UNION.—The Committee hereby give Notice that the second GENERAL MEETING of the Members of this Association will be held on Tuesday the 10th of May, at 11, Regent-street. The Chair to be taken at 2 o'clock precisely.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, for the current Year, will continue to be received until SATURDAY the 13th of May, by the Treasurer, or by any Member of the Committee; at the London and Westminster Bank, 33, Throgmorton-street; and at the Branch Offices of the Bank of England, 12, Walbrook-street, London; 212, High Holborn; 12, Whitechapel; and by Mr. Thomas Britton, collector, 32, Grafton-street East, University College, of whom Prospects and Reports of the past proceedings of the Society may also be obtained.

EDWARD EDWARDS, Hon. Sec.

NELSON MONUMENT.—The Committee for Erecting a Monument to the Memory of Lord Nelson, hereby give Notice, that they are desirous of receiving from Architects, Artists, or other persons, DESIGNS for such a MONUMENT, to be erected in Trafalgar-square.

ANNUAL FEES, for the current Year, will continue to be received until SATURDAY the 13th of May, by the Treasurer, or by any Member of the Committee; at the London and Westminster Bank, 33, Throgmorton-street; and at the Branch Offices of the Bank of England, 12, Walbrook-street, London; 212, High-street, Whitechapel; and by Mr. Thomas Britton, collector, 32, Grafton-street East, University College, of whom Prospects and Reports of the past proceedings of the Society may also be obtained.

The Designs, sealed, and marked within and without with the Designer's name, or any mark he may choose to adopt, and a note of his estimate of the cost, are to be delivered on or before the tenth June next, to Charles D. Scott, Esq., 22, New Bridge-street, Fleet-street, London.

By direction of the Committee.

April 11, 1838. CHARLES D. SCOTT, Hon. Sec.

Sales by Auction.

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Gentlemen residing in the country, or who cannot attend the Sales, may have their commissions faithfully executed by Messrs. Christie & Manson, who will be pleased to send Cards to view upon application. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that Commissions may refer both to number, and name in the Catalogue when particular Portraits are desired; but when the object is to secure one or more specimens out of the collection, or to ascertain the value of a particular portrait, gentlemen are requested to communicate with the Directors, by so stating their instructions will receive the most prompt attention.

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